THE  TIMES

No 61,715 SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1983 20p

THE TIMES

Monday

Senior ...
Michael Binyon, in Bonn, presents a portrait of Willy Brandt, West Germany's elder statesman, who is 70 today.

Citizens
Russell Davies provides the lowdown on life in Cambridge.

Ghosts ...
Robert Fisk reports on the grim facts of life in *Beirut*, where death is a constant companion.

Of Christmas ...
The Monday Page comes face to face with the festive season.



Yet to come
Macao: what does the future hold for the Portuguese colony as neighbouring Hongkong prepares for 1997?

Two shot dead as store chief is rescued from IRA

From Richard Ford, Ballinamore, co Leitrim

A soldier and a policeman, members of the Irish Republic's security forces, were shot dead *yesterday in fierce gun battles* as Mr Don Tidey, the kidnapped chainstores executive, was successfully freed.

The policeman was later named as Mr Peter Sheenan, aged 23 a recruit from the police training depot at Templemore, co Tipperary.

Mr Tidey, aged 49, was unharmed after his 22-day *ordeal at the hands of the* Provisional IRA who had demanded £5m from the Associated British Foods company for his safe release.

Last night, looking tired and with a grey beard, he made emotional telephone calls to his family at their home in Rathfarnham, co Dublin, and to his business colleagues.

A detective, Mr Donal Kelleher, was shot in the leg when he threw himself in front of Mr Tidey as his captors turned their guns on him. A second soldier was injured, along with two members of the kidnap gang during three separate gun battles in isolated woodland near the village of Ballinamore, co Leitrim.

Four members of the gang escaped a dragnet of 1,000 police and army forces in the *biggest security operation* in the history of the Irish state. But detectives believe that they are still hiding in woods two miles north of the village near the road leading to the border with co Fermanagh.

A thousand extra troops, assisted by army helicopters, were drafted into the area and will begin a major search at *daylight this* morning.

Last night, a massive security operation was taking place on both sides of the border, with police and army checkpoints stopping all vehicles and searching them every few miles, as reports continued to come in that sporadic gunfore had been heard in the woods.

In Dublin, the Dail and the city's Roman Catholic and Protestant archbishops welcomed Mr Tidey's safe release, but expressed sympathy to the families of the two young men who died.

Inspector Patrick Malachy said: "Mr Tidey is in good health. He is jumping for joy at his release, he is very excited and overjoyed at being free again."

Mr Garry Weston, chairman *of Associated British Foods*, said: "We are supremely delighted on behalf of his family and all of his colleagues."

Chief Supt James McNally said: "It was an excellent day's work, saddened by the deaths of two very brave young men. Mr Tidey was unharmed and I have just been speaking to his daughter, who is delighted at *her father's release.*"

Mr Tidey's release comes after one of the most intensive security operations ever mounted in the Republic, and occurred only 24 hours after it was revealed the kidnappers had renewed their ransom demand for £5m.

This had been rejected by Associated British Foods, who had taken into account the policy of the British and Irish governments that no cash be paid for kidnap victims.

Mr Tidey was abducted as he drove his daughter to school only a few months after the Provisional IRA had been foiled in an attempt to kidnap Mr Weston, from his home in co Wicklow.



Freedom day: Carol Compton being escorted from court while the judges deliberate.

Brittan hits out at closed shop

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, warned the unions last night that the closed shop could be in jeopardy if they failed to learn the important lessons of the National Graphical Association (NGA) dispute at Warrington.

In a speech on the subject of "Ending the Closed Shop", Mr Brittan told a meeting of businessmen in Northallerton, North Yorkshire: "The closed shop is itself, however enforced, a flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties.

"Our employment legislation has rightly been aimed at curbing the worst abuses which the closed shop brings with it. But while trade unionists go on believing that it can be right for them to insist on their fellow workers joining a union whether they want to or not, this issue will continue to poison industrial relations.

"Moreover, no one should have any doubt that, however temporarily comfortable it may be, even for some employers, the suppression of individual workers' rights which closed shop agreements involve is not only morally wrong but deeply damaging to the economy and jobs."

He also said that the closed shop, as with every rigid monopoly attempting to secure immunity from market forces, contained the seeds of its own destruction; the respite was only temporary. Mr Brittan added: "Change there has to be, unless whole industries are to die."

The fact that the Home Secretary should speak in such tough and unrelenting language gives an indication of the Government's concern on an issue which did not feature in last June's manifesto.

But Whitehall sources did point out last night that Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, had it in his power to bring forward the closed shop ballot deadline contained in the Employment Act, 1982.

Unions have until November next year to win 80 per cent support for closed shop agreements. It they fail employees have rights to non-membership. But Mr Norman Tebbit announced last year: "If there is evidence that the closed shop is still being operated intolerantly and inflexibly, I shall not hesitate to bring forward the date of implementation."

Ministers are thought to have reviewed that deadline in October, but *there would be* nothing to stop Mr King advancing the ballot date if the Prime Minister and the Cabinet felt that NGA intolerance and inflexibility demanded a stronger response than a threat from Mr Brittan.

Judge 'has sympathy' in sex case

Judge Brien Gibbens, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court that he had considerable sympathy for a man who had sexual intercourse with a girl aged seven. "It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone", he said Page 3

Korchnoi mugged

Viktor Korchnoi, he exiled Russian chess grandmaster, was mugged on Tower Bridge on Thursday night, it was revealed last night. Mr Korchnoi, aged 52, is in London for the world chess championship semi-final.

Rothschild deal

Rothschild Group, the holding company of NM Rothschild, the merchant bankers, has agreed to buy the maximum permitted stake in Smith Brothers, the London stockjobbers Page 19

Peugeot crisis

The French Prime Minister is stepping in to defuse the crisis in the French car industry after the decision of the Peugeot factory to shut down its strike-hit Poissy plant Page 6

Budget test

The Council of Ministers is to test the legality of the controversial EEC budget. The Council believes at least four points in it could be challenged before the European Court Page 30

Drink warning

Magistrates in Essex have threatened to impose prison sentences on motorists convicted of drink-driving offences Essex takes lead page 4

Money savers

With only six shopping days left to Christmas, *Family Money* has been investigating ways of saving by shopping in France Page 21

India revolution

India is planning to revolutionize the appearance of its locally built cars which at present look as though they belong to the 1950s Page 6

Neill dismissed

Arsenal have dismissed Terry Neill, their manager for seven years, after a run of poor results, including a home defeat in the Milk Cup by Walsall Page 25

Inflation at lowest for 14 years

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The yearly rate of inflation fell to 4.8 per cent last month and will end the year at the lowest level for 14 years, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

"Today's fall in inflation *to* 4.8 per cent rounds off a year of good news on the economy which has seen us climb out of recession and achieve one of the fastest growth rates in Europe.

"It means that for 1983 prices will have risen more slowly than at any time since 1969," Mr King said.

The latest figures confirm inflationary pressures remain weak. Last month alone prices rose 0.4 per cent largely due to higher telephone charges and fresh-food prices although this was partly offset by price cuts for wine and second-hand cars.

However, the year-on-year inflation rate is still expected to edge up ahead because of the favourable trend in the same period last year.

Prices fell last December, helped by a 2 per cent cut in the mortgage rate, so even if prices showed no increase at all this month, the 12-month rate will still rise.

Officials expect inflation by the end of the year to be running *a little above five per cent and comfortably* in line with the Government's predictions.

However international comparisons show that Britain is roughly in line with the average in other industrialized countries of 5.2 per cent and some important competitors are doing much better. Inflation in the United States is 2.9 per cent and only 2.6 per cent in West Germany.

The importance of keeping inflation down if Britain is to compete in world markets was hammered home by both Mr King and by Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Sir Terence said: "This augurs well for attaining the Chancellor's forecast of 4.5 per cent by the end of next year. But we must not relax our efforts to keep pay settlements low as part of the effort to improve competitiveness."

Guardian missile leak

Judge orders 'mole' unmasked

By Richard Evans

A civil servant who leaked classified information to *The Guardian* should be identified and removed because he is a serious threat to national security, a court of Appeal judge ruled yesterday in the case of the cruise missile document published by that newspaper.

Lord Justice Griffiths said: "I regard it as urgent that every possible step should be taken to *identify this untrustworthy* person and remove him from the position where he has access to classified material.

"Too much time has already passed. The trial will be going cold and the culprit will be taking steps to cover his tracks. There must be no more delays and the document must be handed over immediately."

The court ordered *The Guardian* to return the secret cruise missile document to the Ministry of Defence.

In a ruling which is likely to have far reaching implications for journalists, three judges rejected the newspaper's plea that it was entitled to protect its anonymous source from being identified by markings on the document, and declared that national security required that the official be traced and removed.

Within one hour of the court order the photostat of the ministry memorandum received by *The Guardian* was *handed over in a lawyer's office* complete with identifying marks which could enable security officials to uncover the "mole".

The document, marked "secret", involved a memo from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, to the Prime Minister, of which there were only seven copies, in which he dealt with publicity surrounding the arrival of cruise missiles at Greenham Common air base.

The newspaper published the text in full on October 31.

When asked originally to return the document the newspaper said that it could only do *so after removing any markings.*

Mr Heseltine and the Attorney General successfully sued the newspaper in the High Court on Thursday to return the document intact, and the Court of Appeal upheld the ruling yesterday.

The newspaper had relied on an untested clause of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, *allowing newspapers to protect* their sources of information.

Section 10 of the Act provides that no court can require disclosure of sources unless "it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime."

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said that the case raised once again "the extent to which journalists are allowed to protect their sources of information."

But national security required that the "mole" be *identified at the earliest possible* moment and removed from his position. "This is blindingly obvious".

The court granted the newspaper leave to appeal to the House of Lords over interpretation of the act; but the document had to be handed over immediately. "There are occasions, rare perhaps, where *it is for the Court of Appeal* to reach a final decision," Sir John said.

Mr Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, last night defended his decision to comply with the court ruling. "Something I have preached all my journalistic life is that the law, whether you like it or not, or whether you want it changed or not, has to be submitted to."

"This was the first case under section 10 of the Contempt Act which was supposed to give journalists protection for their

Continued on back page, col 3

Nanny free but guilty of arson

From Peter Nichols Livorno

Carol Compton, the Scottish nanny held by the Italians for 17 months in pre-trial detention, walked out of the court of assizes here tonight a free woman after being found not guilty of attempted murder.

The court sentenced her to two and a half years in prison for arson and attempted arson but this meant her immediate release.

As applause broke out in the court, Miss Compton, aged 21, was immediately whisked away for a last look at her cell. Indeed, when she had entered the court room earlier in the day in a dark blue pinstriped dress and with a beige jacket over her arm it seemed she was expecting her eventual freedom.

The bench of two professional and six lay judges acquitted her on the principal charge of attempted murder on the ground of insufficient proof. On the five charges of arson she was acquitted on one and found guilty on the four others, two of them reduced to attempted arson.

The public prosecuter angered the defence by advising the judges: "Acquit Carol Compton only if in conscience you believe that today you would entrust your child to her".

Lebanon leader in surprise Libya visit

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Amin Gemayel arrived unexpectedly in the Libyan capital of Tripoli last night for talks with Colonel Muammar Ghaddafi, the *Libyan leader*, as another of Lebanon's allegedly unbreakable ceasefires permitted the authorities to reopen Beirut airport for the first time this month.

The truce had been agreed at a long meeting in Damascus between leaders of at least three of the militia groups which have been fighting around the airport and in the mountains east of Beirut.

The Syrian orientation of the ceasefire and the Lebanese leader's almost unprecedented visit to Libya – at Colonel Ghaddafi's own request – suggests that the Lebanese Government is now anxious to see just how far Syria and its allies are prepared to go in supporting *the Gemayel regime.* They may well be doing so with the encouragement of the Americans, whose military confrontation with Syria has been in danger of getting out of control.

Colonel Simon Kassis, the head of Lebanese military intelligence, has been in Damascus for discussions with his Syrian opposite number and the *highly charged rhetoric* that used to be exchanged between Syria and Lebanon has now disappeared.

The Lebanese had "frozen" their relations with Libya on November 23 because they complained that Colonel Ghaddafi's radio and newspapers were making "verbal attacks" on Lebanon. Yesterday all this was forgotten. Indeed it was the Libyan news agency which first announced Mr Gemayel's arrival.

Libya maintains a token battalion of troops in the Syrian-occupied Bekaa valley and the Lebanese President will undoubtedly have asked the Libyan leader how long he intends to extend their uninvited visit. Several hundred *Revolutionary Guards* from Iran are also quartered around Baalbek – they were brought in by Syria more than a year and a half ago – and it will be interesting to see if the Lebanese authorities extend any courtesies to Tehran.

Tories help house Bill on its way

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet's compromise proposals to loosen the solicitors' £1,000m monopoly on house conveyancing was rejected outright by the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr Austin Mitchell's Private Member's legislation, the House Buyers Bill, was given a second reading by 96 votes to 76, a majority of 20.

The Bill, which was backed by 25 Conservative MPs, now goes into committee for scrutiny and amendment. Mr Mitchell, Labour MP for Great



Mr Austin Mitchell (left) and Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Grimsby, said he was confident that a system of licensed competition would be enacted.

He said: "It would be monstrous if the Government tried to strangle the Bill in committee. The House has *rejected their proposals.*"

However, Cabinet and Law Society opposition is expected to ensure the eventual death of Mr Mitchell's measure.

Committee hearings, meanwhile will keep public interest alive and the Government may have to produce bolder and clearer plans for reform.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, failed to reassure Conservative backbench critics. He explained that the Government hoped to allow solicitors employed by banks and building societies to do conveyancing, although there might be problems for solicitors with a conflict of interest between employer and client.

He also promised a Law Commission committee would be formed to consider simplifying practice and procedure in conveyancing.

Replying, Mr Mitchell feared the Government had undercut his Conservative support. He spoke of the public being cheated by a squalid government manoeuvre, and described the minister's plans as "a half-dead mouse."

Yet when the closure was moved for a vote on the *substantive question* of second reading, Mr Mitchell scraped together the requisite 100 MPs in majority support – although some of them then voted against the Bill itself.

● The result left the Law Society almost speechless (Our Property Correspondent writes). The society offered a terse "no comment" when asked for comments.

The Consumers' Association, which played a vital part in preparing Mr Mitchell's Bill, claimed the vote represented a victory for its campaign.

A spokesman said: "This is a good day for house buyers. Now MPs can get down to the fine tuning and ensure that the new arrangements for conveyancing provide the kind of protection for the consumer that we are confident can be achieved."

Mr Mark Boleat, for the Buildings Societies' Association, welcomed the Government's intention to give building societies the power to undertake conveyancing. "It is something we have already requested," he said.

He added, however, that the association criticized the bill for failing to include adequate safeguards for the consumer.

Discussing the Bill earlier, Mr John Spalding, chief general manager of the Halifax Building Society, said conveyancing law and practice had not adapted to meet the needs of today's home-owning society. He said societies were prepared to take up conveyancing in competition with solicitors for their customers' benefit.

Mr David Ashford, chairman of the National Association of conveyancers, representing non-solicitors who do conveyancing, said: "It is very exciting and we are cheered by its success."

Mr Ashford said the vote represented a "massive defeat for the pro-monopolists, the Law Society and their cohorts".

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Parliamentary report, page 4

Art treasure talks collapse

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

Negotiations between the Duke of Devonshire and the British Museum over the biggest art transfer to the nation of recent times have collapsed. Crisp statements from each side announced their failure to agree last night, after talks lasting more than a year.

The Duke had offered the museum a group of 74 Old Master drawings, including works by Rembrandt, Raphael, Rubens and Van Dyck. The bone of contention is their value which seems to have been set at various figures in the £3m to £6m range by different experts.

While the theoretical market value of the drawings is of much academic interest, the real argument as far as the Duke and the museum are concerned rests with the sum he would be



The Duke of Devonshire: Offered 74 drawings.

left with after tax. Numerous different formulas for calculating this figure have apparently been explored without result.

The final move seems to have been the biggest tax-free offer the museum could stretch to after taking a very deep breath.

The difference over valuation is also due to a disagreement between top art market experts. The Duke was advised by Christie's the art auctioneers, and the British Museum by Agnew's the Bond St firm of Old Master dealers.

Dr David Wilson, Director of the British Museum, said yesterday that Agnew's and Mr John Rowlands, Keeper of Prints and Drawings, had come up with independent valuations on the drawings which had been very close, but a very long way from Christie's figure.

He said that the difference had nothing to do with "the Getty factor" – the enormous purchasing power of the J. Paul *Getty Museum in Malibu* – though he agreed that the museum had recently paid a very high price for a drawing.

Nevertheless, in making their valuation on behalf of the Duke, Christie's must have taken full account of the purchasing power of other potentially interested parties.

Training scheme for Services fails to attract young entrants

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The armed Forces Youth training scheme launched in August has so far been a flop with only about 600 people being accepted to fill the 1,900 places which were being offered this autumn.

According to latest statistics from the Ministry of Defence, 281 people have joined the scheme and a further 331 have been accepted but have not yet started training.

Under the scheme, young people aged 16 and 17 are offered a year in the Armed Forces during which they do basic training and have the opportunity of training in specific trades. They wear uniform and are subject to service discipline, but are entitled to leave the service at any time after giving 14 day's notice.

There appear to have been two main obstacles to the services' endeavours to fill the 1,900 places. One is that the trainees receive only £25 a week, from which £10 is deducted to cover the cost of food and accommodation.

The other obstacle has been that in the selection of recruits the same standards have been adopted as for the recruitment of normal entrants to the forces. This is reflected in the fact that of 3,000 young people who have shown serious interest in the scheme only 612 have been accepted.

In a written answer in the Commons on Thursday Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, acknowledged that the take-up of places had been "disappointing".

He said: "I am, therefore, taking steps to stimulate among those responsible for administering the scheme within the Ministry of Defence a greater awareness and commitment to its success."

It had originally been planned that when the scheme was in full operation, probably by about the middle of next year, 5,200 places would be offered. It now seems highly unlikely that this will be achieved unless the scheme is modified.

No national papers on New Year's Day

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

There will be no national Sunday newspapers on New Year's Day because of a pay dispute between the National Graphical Association and Fleet Street publishers.

The council of the Newspaper Publishers Association announced yesterday that publication would not take place for the third time in six weeks, "posing a further serious threat to the long-term employment of all national newspaper employees".

The NPA blamed NGA demands for a renegotiation of the Bank Holiday agreement for its decision not to publish issues dated January 1, 1984, adding that employers were convinced that the present joint agreement "totally covered" terms for publication.

In its other dispute, with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger Group Newspapers, the NGA is deferring further action against the Stockport-based free sheet firm. At the union's request a special meeting of the TUC's employment policy and organization committee has been put off from Monday until the new year.

Journalists will continue strike

Journalists at the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* yesterday decided to continue their strike despite a decision by their national leaders to abide by the law and withdraw their instruction authorizing the stoppage (Barrie Clement writes).

The executive of the National Union of Journalists rescinded its strike order because it would have forfeited a right of appeal to the House of Lords if it had not done so.

Mr David Dimbleby, the broadcaster, who is chairman of the newspaper group, will now have to decide whether to take fresh court action against his own journalists to follow his injuction against their national leaders.

Miss Joanna Davies, mother of NUJ chapel (chairman of the office branch) at the Dimbleby papers, said last night that the 12 journalists taking what the High Court had decided was "secondary action" were confident that Mr Dimbleby would not seek a fresh injuntion.

He is a reasonable man and he is aware of his public image. I do not think he would conduct a personal vendetta against us, he is not that vindictive.

The NUJ members started the action because Mr Dimbleby had transferred the printing of his papers from his own office to the non-union TBF Printers in Nottingham, associated with T Bailey Forman, with whom the NUJ has had a five-year dispute.

The High Court and subsequently the Court of Appeal ruled that the two companies were separate legal entities and that the action being taken by the journalists was "secondary" and therefore illegal.

The union is arguing that the courts have misinterpreted the labour laws and that the ruling that TBF Printers and T Bailey Forman are separate entities will lead to the establishment of numerous "companies of convenience"

Teachers closer to salary overhaul

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Plans to overhaul the salary structure of teachers took an important step forward this week when teachers' leaders agreed on a new entry grade for all new recruits.

At a private residential meeting in Manchester, teachers' union leaders and the local authority employers discussed the management's plans for a new structure that is designed to keep incompetent recruits from becoming fully fledged teachers.

Although both sides agreed on a new entry grade, no decision was reached as to whether it should last for two or three years. The management, did accept that the new grade would involve spending more money on giving the new teachers a lighter teaching load in their first year as well as more professional support.

However, there was no agreement on some of the more controversial parts of the package, notably that the above average teacher should get accelerated promotion and that all teachers should get a job description. But it looks as though there will be agreement on the introduction of a main professional grade for teachers to which they would progress from the entry grades.

The earliest date for the introduction of a new salary structure would be 1985. Meanwhile, the National Union of Teachers, the biggest union with 250,000 members, is strongly opposed to accelerated promotion for the good teacher.

The National Association of Schoolteachers/Union of Women Teachers NAS/UWT is better disposed towards the idea. The present stumbling block to agreement on the main professional grade is the question of how to assess teachers for it.

The NAS/UWT is in favour of "positive" assessment. Teachers would hav to match certain criteria and that would be done by a panel of teachers and advisers. The NUT wants "negative" assessment, which means that all would pass through to the main grade automatically unless the local authority could prove them incompetent.

Both unions are united in their resistance to a job description because of the employers' desire to incorporate such items as voluntary lunchtime duties. The NAS/UWT says it is prepared to contemplate a separate contract for lunchtime supervision for those who wanted to do the duties.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, of the NAS/UWT, said his union was all in favour of reforming the salary structure. "The present system is so amateur, corrupt, and confidential that any attempt to systematize it can only lead to improvements," he said.



Shaping up: Mr Ian McIntyre, a British Museum conservation officer, working on the eigth century York Helmet which is to go on display at York Castle Museum next year (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Draw ends Ribli's hopes of victory

By Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent

Zoltan Ribli, the young Hungarian grandmaster, saw his hopes of beating the former world champion Vassily Smyslov fade when the tenth game of their match in the Acorn Computers World Championship semi-finals at the Great Eastern Hotel, in London, ended in a draw on Thursday.

In order for him to entertain any hope of saving the match Ribli, who had the white pieces, was bound to play for a win; being two points behind meant that only wins would enable him to escape losing the contest.

In fact, he never looked like winning. Indeed, when the middlegame was reached it was Smyslov who looked to have the winning chances, since Ribli's method of developing his bishops was a rather unhappy one and his Queen's Bishop in particular was a useless piece.

However, Smyslov seemed well content with the draw. He offered an exchange of queens on move 20, an offer which Ribli readily accepted, and a draw was agreed after thirty moves, making the score Smyslov 6, Ribli 4 and leaving the former world champion in the happy position of requiring only half a point to win the match.

Tenth game
Réti Opening
White Ribli, Black Smyslov

1 N-KB3	N-KB3	17 Q-R4	KR-B1
2 P-KN3	P-Q4	18 QR-B1	Q-N3
3 B-N2	P-KN3	19 P-K3	P-QR3
4 P-B4	P-B3	20 KR-K1	Q-N4
5 P-N3	B-N2	21 QxQ	PxQ
6 B-N2	O-O	22 RxR ch	RxR
7 O-O	B-N5	23 R-QB1	RxR ch
8 P-Q4	N-K5	24 BxR	B-B4
9 N-K5	B-K3	25 B-QR3	P-B3
10 P-B3	N-Q3	26 N-Q3	P-K3
11 PxP	PxP	27 B-KB1	N-B6
12 N-B3	N-Q2	28 N-B1	B-N8
13 P-B4	N-B3	29 K-B2	NxP
14 Q-Q2	N(B3)-K5	30 BxP	NxN
15 NxN	NxN	31 Draw agreed	
16 Q-N4	Q-Q3		

In the other semi-final, Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union leads Viktor Korchnoi 6 to 4. Winners of both encounters will play off for the right to challenge the world champion, Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union.

Police given national case rules

National rules for police forces working together on important investigations are to be introduced in the new year to prevent the problems in the Yorkshire Ripper investigation.

A "policy file" will be built up to audit decisions. Detectives will note down why they have taken on a particular decision.

The file will be attached to the case papers

The Byford inquiry into the Ripper case had difficulty in discovering who had authorized some decisions.

Officers on door-to-door inquiries will be seperated from teams processing other information, which will be stored under 17 indexes.

Post strike may widen in London

A postmen's strike in west London will prevent any mail being delivered in the area before Christmas. It could spread next week if, as expected, it is made official by the Union of Communications Workers (Rupert Morris writes).

The dispute, which began over the abolition of night sorting, has prevented any deliveries in Shepherd's Bush since December 1 when postmen walked out in protest at the withholding of bonus payments. Among those affected are the BBC Television headquarters in Lime Grove, Wormwood Scrubs Prison and Hammersmith Hospital; all have arranged for mail to be sent to other addresses.

Mr Alan Tuffin, the union's general secretary, said yesterday that his talks with the Post Office board had broken down, and he would be recommending making the strike official.

Bail refused for policeman

A policeman accused of murdering a Roman Catholic teenager earlier this week was refused bail in the Ulster High Court yesterday. Constable Thomas Andrews of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was told by Lord Justice Gibson that he had carried out a completely unprovoked attack on a stranger.

Mr Andrews denies murdering Mr Tony Dawson, 18, who lived in Belfast's Short Strand area. He was shot as he stood chatting to two friends early on Monday.

Road traffic increasing

Road traffic was up by 3 per cent in the third quarter of this year compared with 1982, the Department of Transport reported yesterday. The biggest increase was in heavy lorries, and pedal cycles – both up 7 per cent.

Car and taxi traffic rose by 3 per cent, light vans by 2 per cent but bus traffic was unchanged.

Airman held on secrets charge

Paul John Davies, aged 21, who served with an RAF signals unit in Cyprus, was remanded in custody for a month yesterday by Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London, charged with a breach of the Official Secrets Act.

Olivier better

Lord Olivier, aged 76, the actor, is "doing well and making a good recovery" at St Thomas Hospital, London, 10 days after undergoing a kidney operation.

Councillor resigns over clash at Brent

By Rupert Morris

A Labour councillor resigned yesterday from Brent council on protest at the violent scenes on Thursday night which preceded the Conservative group's assumption of power.

The defection last month of Mrs Ambrozine Neil from Labour to Conservative had precipitated the change of power at Thursday's meeting, during which extreme left-wing groups disrupted council proceedings and embarrassed Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party.

Thursday's disturbances lasted 45 minutes and a hundred police removed demonstrators, who were mostly extreme left-wingers protesting at Neil's "treachery".

Afterwards Cokneservatives with 31 seats, took control of all the key committees, with the support of three Liberal councillors. Labour was reduced to 32 seats.

Mr Lawrie Nerva, former chairman of the social services committee, said yesterday: "I am resigning because I condemn and will not tolerate physical disruption of council meetings, whatever the provocation. After 40 year's membership of the Labour Party I shall continue to fight for and support Labour ideals and policies which I cherish so dearly."

Mr Nerva's seat was a marginal one which the Conservatives will have high hopes of capturing in a by-election.

Yesterday, Mr John Selwyn Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, said: "It is time for Mr Kinnock to condemn last night's Labour mob rule in Brent."

Meanwhile, the newly installed Conservative group is collecting evidence of the Labour administration's final efforts to spend as much as possible before losing power.

Mr Robert Lacey, the new leader of the council, said last night that in its last few days Labour had granted £357,000 to an Irish cultural centre in Queen's Park. "That money was not budgeted for; it was a deliberate overspend", he said.

Mr Lacey said that the new administration would abandon "political gimmickry" in favour of "a more cautious approach".

● The Labour Party has been thrown into another embarrassing internal wrangle after the decision by the national executive to ask why it refused to follow precedent by approving the decision of the staff negotiations committee who had recommended the appointment of Miss Gale, the assistant regional organizer in Wales.

Post Office profits drop £3m to £39m

The Post Office made £39m profit in the first six months of this financial year up to September. However in spite of an increase in the number of leters posted, profits were £3m less than the same period last year.

The corporation's drop in profit was due to prices. The second class stamp has remained the same price for nearly two years while first class stamps were increased by 1p last April. Neither is due to be increased until April at the earliest.

The volume of inland letters has increased by 3.3 per cent compared with last year. More than 40 million letters and 500,000 parcels a day are handled by the Post Office which claims that productivity had increased by 2.8 per cent. Less than a million man hours have been needed by postal workers to deliver the increased volume of mail.

Lighter fetches £1,430

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

For the first time yesterday Sotheby's gave cigarette lighters the accolade of being included in one of their sales. An 18 carat gold lighter by Dunhill incorporating a watch in its side and dating from 1926 sold for £1,430 (estimated £500-£800), the top price.

A silver and enamel Parker Beaco lighter applied with an RAF emblem on the RAF flag secured £77 (estimate £70-£100). It dates from 1932.

The Japanese department store Seibu, whose chairman has just become a director of Sotheby's spent £110 (estimate £60-£100) on a collection of five lighters, including two early First World War lighters made from coins and nuts.

The lighters were included in a sale of clocks and watches which also saw high prices for wrist watches. There was a Patek Philippe gold watch of 1973 with a perpetual calendar and moonphase at £6,600 (estimate £7,000-£10,000). The sale totalled £92,428 with 17 per cent unsold.

Strong competition pushed the price of dolls up again at Christie's South Kensington. Mrs Mary Hillier paid £4,200 (estimate £1,000-£1,500) for a turned and carved doll fo about 1770.

The top price in the sale was £5,000 (estimate £5,000-£8,000) for a very large (38ins) bique headed *bebe* doll with sleeping eyes. The sale totalled £42,357, with 5 per cent unsold.

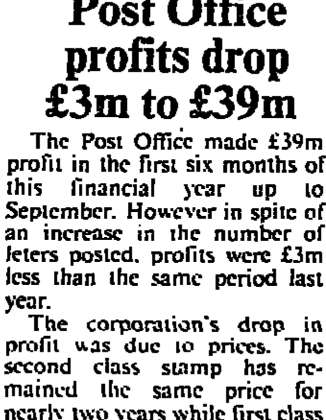
Rate-capping 'blow' to democracy

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Sir Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday that the proposed legislation on rate-capping would "deal a deadly blow to local democracy."

Reacting to *The Times* report on the leaked ministerial memorandum from Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, Sir Jack said that the paper showed the contempt in which the minister held democracy.

He said that local democracy was no different from national democracy, with the same electorate voting in the same sort of fixed ballot, although the country's 25,000 councillors were in closer day-to-day touch



Top tree: The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher yesterday with the first Christmas tree to stand outside 10 Downing Street.

Ex-MP cleared of election overspending

The Home Office has apologized to a former MP for mistakenly reporting him to the Director of Public Prosecutions for overspending at the last election.

Because of a misprint in the official Home Office return of election expenses, Mr Ednyfed Hudson Davies, who contested Basingstoke unsuccessfully for the Social Democrats, was wrongly recorded as having spent more than the legal maximum.

Mr Tom McNally, another former Social Democrat MP, who was defeated at Stockport, in June, questioned the official returns yesterday. These indicated that he overspent by £194.

Mr McNally said that he was appalled that the Home Office had allowed such a damaging accusation to be made without notifying him and that he would consult lawyers to seek redress. He added that he was willing to cooperate with the DPP to examine his expenses.

Heavy fines imposed on Warrington pickets

Heavy fines were imposed yesterday at Warrington magistrates' court on demonstrators involved in the violence outside the Messenger Group Newspaper print works at Winwick Quay on the night of November 20.

Pickets who admitted using threating words and behaviour were ordered to pay between £200 and £250 fines. Others were convicted of obstructing the highway.

One solicitor claimed that his two clients had been used as "cannon fodder" by the organizers of the picket.

Pickets convicted of using threatening behaviour and fined were: Christopher Thompson, aged 19, unemployed, of Sutton Mill, Telford, Salop, £200 with £25 costs; Daniel Smith, aged 19, a student, at University of Aston, Birmingham, £250 with £25 costs; Barry Gilfoyle, aged 21, unemployed, of Speke, Liverpool, £250 with £25 costs; Graham Pier, aged 19, unemployed, of Burnley, Lancashire, £200 with £25 costs; Ronald Waterson, aged 39, a crane driver, of Glasgow, £250 with £25 costs; Jonathan Noculak, aged 22, a student at Bristol Polytechnic, £200 with £25 costs. They all pleaded guilty.

The following were fined £40 with £20 costs after admitting obstructing the highway: Douglas Surtees, aged 45, a teacher, of Preston, Lancashire: Ian Ashurst, aged 27, a joiner, of Ormskirk, Lancashire; Peter Ferguson, aged 35, a mechanic, of Hunts Cross, Liverpool; David Kersey, aged 18, a student at Warwick University; Ronald Gilbert, aged 34, a printer, of Gateshead. Malcolm Metcalfe, aged 36, a social worker, of Whitefield, Manchester; Adrian Humphreys, aged 20, unemployed, of Old Trafford, Manchester. Graham Jones, aged 20, unemployed, of Acocks Green, Birmingham; Peter Shaw, aged 23, unemployed, of Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton; Aristides Philippides, aged 20, a chemistry student at Manchester University; Mark Eastman, aged 21, unemployed, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire; Anthony Mulligan, aged 31, a gardener, of Cantril Farm, Merseyside; Thomas Sillars, aged 30, a printer, of Newcastle upon Tyne. They all pleaded guilty.

How Reuters struck gold on the market

By Philip Robinson

Behind the push to get a stock exchange quote for Reuters lies a desire by Fleet Street proprietors to gain a large slice of cash as shareholders of the internatinal news agency, now earning huge profits from its bsiness information systems.

It has been seen by some as a sound business decision for the existing shareholders of Reuters to get some return from an investment which had seen none since 1981. By then the monumental growth in the international appetite for busines information from around the globe at the touch of a button had quadrupled Reuters profits, enabling it to pay its first dividend for 20 years. It was £20 a share.

Last year profits had doubled again, to £36m and the divident rose to £60 a share. This year for the 12 months to the end of this month profits are expected to total £60m, and the dividend payment is now anyone's guess. Reuters' 1983 accounts are not due until April.

Ninety per cent of the profits come quite simply from supplying green coloured numbers and letters on a television screen.

Since 1978 Reuters has spent almost £100m putting together business information, whose 64 individual services go to about 15,000 subscribers on 37,900 terminals, in 119 cities spread over 74 countries.

The core of the business is the Reuter Monitor. It began in June, 1973, almost 10 years after the agency's chief executive, Mr Gerald Long, now deputy chairman of News International, spearheaded a plan to take Reuters back to its roots as a supplier of prices and business news 130 years ago.

Its first stop was to provide an electronic market place for foreign exchange dealings, still a key part of its function. Its strength, as with the other services dealing specifically with financial markets, is an ability to supply an exact price 24 hours a day. For example, at what price the US dollar is trading at the opening of the Tokyo foreign exchange markets.

By the mid-1970s Reuters had in place its first news retrieval service, enabling subscribers to extract the worldwide news sent out by Reuter and which could influence financial markets and thus the price of any particular commodity.

The service started by charging subscribers to put their own information on to Reuters television screens and graduated to carrying information of its own on all factors which move prices in the shipping, commodities, equity, bond, gold and oil markets.

Two years ago, Reuters Began its Monitor Dealing Service, effectively allowing dealers in the foreign exchange and bullion markets to deal with one another without using a telephone and then obtain a paper copy of the transaction once the deal is struck.

The transaction can take as little as four seconds, against the 15 seconds Reuter calculate it would take using a telephone. It has 500 subscribers, including 37 of the world's leading 50 banks.

No rival has yet matched that service. Future developments include a service for Arbitrage, for dealers who earn a profit from the difference in the price of the same commodity in two separate markets. Those wanting the service will be able to use the Reuters screen also as a calculator to see how much profit they will make from the deal.

The fruits of that new-found wealth, on which the shareholders wish to get their hands, has already benefited the staff and directors.

In 1982 the annual salary of the highest paid director jumped from £67,000 to £92,000. The number of employees earning between £30,000 and £35,000 has soared in 1982 from two to 20.

Reuters has not released the percentage shareholding of the agency, but research by Mr Nicholas Ward, of the stockbrokers, Henderson Crosthwaite, shows that the leading five holders are Associated Newspapers *(Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday)* with 12.2 per cent: Fleet Holdings *(Daily Express and Sunday Express, Daily Star)* with 21.1 per cent; News International *(The Times, The Sunday Times, News of the World and The Sun)* with 9 per cent, Reed International *(Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sunday People)* with 7.9 per cent, and S. Pearson *(Financial Times)* with 4.9 per cent.

The expectation in the City is that Reuters will be worth £1,000m to £1,500m once floated on the exchange.

The chairman of Reuters trustees is Mr Angus McLachlan. He has said agreement on a public flotation is not a foregone conclusion. The trustees, he pointed out, are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that Reuters shall at no time pass into the hands of any one interest group or faction.

Rebel Tories in House Buyers Bill vote

The Conservative MPs who voted in favour of the House Buyers Bill at yesterday's second reading were:

Mr Robert Banks (Harrogate), Mr Richard Body (Holland with Boston), Mr Christopher Chope (Southampton, Itchen), Mr Patrick Cormack (Staffordshire South), Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow, East), Mr Nigel Forman (Carshalton and Wallington), Sir Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham), Sir Philip Goodhart (Beckenham), Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow), Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells), Mr Alan Howarth (Stratford-on-Avon), Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burntwood), Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham), Mr Robert Jones (Hertfordshire West), Mr Michael Knowles (Nottingham East), Mr John Maples (Lewisham West), Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton), Mr Christopher Murphy (Welwyn Hatfield), Mr Richard Ottaway (Nottingham North), Mr Keith Raffan (Delyn), Mr Richard Ryder (Norfolk-Mid), Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills), Mr Frederick Silvester (Manchester Withington) and Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst).

Correction

Ms Ruth Harrison, former political assistant to Mr Gerald Bermingham, MP for St Helens South, is a divorced woman and should have been described in yesterday's report as a single parent.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28: Belgium B frs 60: Canada $2.75: Canaries Pes 180: Cyprus 880 mils: Denmark Dkr 8.50: Finland Mkk 8.00: France Frs 7.00: Germany DM 3.60: Greece Dr 100: Holland Gl 3.25: Irish Republic 40p: Italy L 2200: Luxembourg Lf 38: Madeira Esc 120: Morocco Dir 8.00: Norway Kr 7.50: Pakistan Rps 12: Portugal Esc 126: Singapore $5.50: Spain Pes 180: Sweden Skr 8.00: Switzerland S Frs 3.00: Tunisia Din 0.700: USA $1.50: Yugoslavia Din 100

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Sex with children could happen to anyone accidentally, judge says

There were gasps of astonishment from a public gallery in the Central Criminal Court yesterday as a senior judge defended a man who had had sexual intercourse with a friend's seven-year-old daughter.

"It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone", Judge Gibbens said.

The judge, aged 71, who has two sons and a daughter, added: "This is, of course, a serious offence against a little child. I hope the public will not misunderstand me when I say what I do."

He said that he had considerable sympathy with William Watson-Sweeney, aged 35, a builder, said to have a serious drink problem.

"For some moments people like this lose their natural restraint", Judge Gibbens said.

Watson-Sweeney, of Vernon Road, Guildford, Surrey, admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl. His not guilty plea to raping her was accepted.

He was further remanded in custody until Monday. "I want to see if there is some other punishment available rather



Judge Gibbens: "Restraints can be lost."

than prison". Judge Gibbens said.

Mr Philip Singer, for the prosecution, said that Watson-Sweeney met the child and her mother while shopping.

He had been drinking heavily and asked the girl whether she would help him with some household chores. When he got her to his bedroom he removed her clothes and had intercourse.

He gave her some sherry and took her home. The distressed girl told her mother, who informed the police.

Watson-Sweeney at first told detectives: "You've got to be joking". But within minutes he broke down and confessed: "I must have been drinking too much.

"My God, I feel terrible about this. I wasn't legless, but I wasn't sober. She said she knew what mummies and daddies did in bedrooms."

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the defence, said that his client was "full of remorse and shame". The offence was an isolated one and the memory of it would remain with Watson-Sweeney and his family "for the rest of their lives". He realizes that he deserves everything he gets."

Mrs Brenda Bridge, the wife of the Dean of Guildford, the Very Rev Antony Bridge, was in court. She had been friendly with Watson-Sweeney and his wife, who have a younger son, and described them as a lovely family.

Judge Gibbens received considerable publicity two months ago after he criticized a jury for acquitting a young burglar. Three years earlier he condemned workers at Heathrow for their dishonesty.



Plucking time for turkeys at Marlow, Buckinghamshire (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Plea to free husband of dead solicitor

By A Staff Reporter

The husband of the murdered solicitor Mrs Janice Weston was still being questioned by the police last night after the failure of a High Court attempt to free him from custody.

The court was told that Mr Anthony Weston, a property developer, would either be charged with the murder of his wife, who was 37, or be freed by 2 pm today.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Mann said that the application for a writ of habeas corpus had not been made out.

Mr Weston, aged 39, has been held at Huntingdon police station, Cambridgeshire, a few miles from the A1 lay-by where his wife's battered body was found in September, since shortly after noon on Thursday.

Mr Dermot Wright, counsel for Mr Weston, said that he should either be charged or released immediately. "He is now refusing to answer any more questions and will not say any more", he told the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

"What we say is that the police are holding Mr Weston, knowing that he is at a low emotional ebb, since he has suffered for some months since the dramatic and brutal murder of his wife, holding him at a time when obviously he is very depressed and emotional so that they may, by holding him in the police station – for most of the time in a cell – gain some kind of confession or admission to the murder from him. We say that is wrong."

Mr Timothy Barnes, for the police, said he repudiated any suggestion that they were trying to force a confession out of him and rejected a suggestion that they were "scraping the barrel".

As a result of new information which had come into their possession the police wanted to interview Mr Weston further before charging him or releasing him, Mr Barnes said.

After a 30-minute hearing Det Chief Supt Len Bradley, who is leading the murder inquiry, said that he would abide by his undertaking to charge or release Mr Weston by 2 pm today.

Mr Weston has told the police that he last saw his wife the day before she died and that he spent the weekend of her death on business in France. Mrs Weston, who lived at Addison Avenue, Holland Park, west London, was a partner in the legal firm of Charles Russell, of Lincoln's Inn.

Kidnap gang leader jailed for 18 years

George Panae, aged 30, the gang leader who masterminded the kidnap of Mr Emmanuel Xuereb and his wife Maria, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for 18 years.

Anastasi Panae, aged 36, his brother, was sentenced to 10 years and Donald Gray, aged 27, their accomplice, to eight years.

The couple were kidnapped and held captive for a £2m ransom for five days.

Sir James Miskin, QC, the Recorder, told George Panae: "I am quite satisfied that you were the architect of these dreadful matters. You masterminded the terror struck into Maria and Emmanuel when they were first overpowered, held at knife point, and then bound gagged and blindfolded.

"It was you who took the gamble and organized their terrifying ordeal, you who frightened the husband into speaking on the phone to his father, and you who made those terrifying demands for a £2m ranson and accompanied those demands with disgusting threats."

But Panae, a "wicked and devious man" had reckoned without the courage of Mrs Xuereb, aged 25, who was a "brave and highly intelligent young woman".

Sir James said that cases of kidnap and blackmail were on the increase and there had to be sentences with a "deterrent effect".

George Panae, a driving instructor, of Telford Avenue, Streatham, south London, Anastasi Panae, a fish shop proprietor, of Dunston Road, Battersea, south London, had both pleaded not guilty.. Gray, an unemployed former boxer, of Raleigh Road, Brixton, south London, pleaded guilty to his role in the crimes and gave evidence for the Crown.

After the trial, Mr and Mrs Xuereb said that they wanted to forget the experience. Mr Xuereb revealed that his wife was expecting her first baby in the spring. But they had feared for their unborn baby's life because of her ordeal in the witness box.

He advised any other victims of a kidnap attempt not to obey blackmail demands but to report immediately to the police.

Thatcher bomb 'cry for help'

A north London schoolboy aged 14 was "making a cry for help" when he posted a bomb to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on St Patrick's day, a detective said yesterday.

Det Insp Brendan Gibb-Gray, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch told the Central Criminal court that he had made extensive investigations into the case but could find "absolutely no evidence whatsoever" that the boy had any political motive.

On the second day of his trial the boy changed his plea to guilty to sending an explosive device through the post. The charges alleging that he intended to injure the Prime Minister or any other person were left on the court file. Sentence was adjourned for a month for reports and the boy was granted bail.

£80,000 crash award for boy

Stephen Elliott, aged 16, was awarded £80,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday after being injured in an accident involving his father's lorry, in which he was a passenger.

He had a leg amputated after the accident, at East Bergholt, Essex, in December 1979, and suffered multiple fractures and lacerations which left him scarred for life.

PC jailed

Nigel Edwards, aged 26, of Llys-y-wern, Sychdyn, near Mold a police constable, was sentenced to three months' jail when he appeared before Chester Crown Court yesterday charged with cousing the death of a colleague, PC Ian Grant, by reckless driving in June. Edwards has since left police service.

Radiation check

Shells and seaweed gathered by children of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic School, Swigton, on an outing to the beach near the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria were checked yesterday for traces of radioactivity by scientists from British Nuclear Fuels Limited. All showed normal background radiation.

Paper closes

The *Burnley Evening Star*, which started in 1965, will cease publication today with the loss of 68 jobs. Circulation has fallen from more than 30,000 to 16,000.

Cot death clue discovered

By Clive Cookson

Researchers at Birmingham University may have discovered a cause for unexplained "cot deaths".

Preliminary evidence from Dr Stanley Salmons and Mr Dennis Gale of the university's department of anatomy indicate that the main muscle protein, Myocin, has not matured properly in the diaphragms of babies that mysteriously stop breathing in their cots.

The researchers are using antibodies, supplied by the Institut Pasteur in Paris, to analyse the protein in post mortem samples. The antibodies distinguish the immature form of myocin, with which the baby is born, from the adult form that should develop during the first months of life.

According to the Birmingham hypothesis, the diaphragm, whose muscles control breathing, becomes susceptible to fatigue if the myocin does not mature fast enough. Then any additional stress, such as a cold, could make the diaphragm fail suddenly.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Death, based in London, has given Dr Salmons and Mr Gale a £21,500 grant to carry their research further over the next two years. Mr Gale emphasized that the project was intended only to identify an important molecular causes of cot-deaths.

If myocin immaturity is indeed implicated, then more clinical work would be required to develop the discovery into a practical means of identifying babies at risk, who could be monitored closely.



Eila Karjalainen: a Finnish student.

Blenheim body indentified

The girl found strangled in a wood on the Duke of Marlborough's Blenheim estate in Oxfordshire three weeks ago has been named as a Finnish student, Eila Karjalainen, who was 23.

The breakthrough in identifying her body came this week when a walker found her passport, rucksack and diary in a lay-by near Witney.

Det Supt Roger Nicklin said that Miss Karjalainen arrived at Harwich on August 2. She stayed at a hostel in central London until the following Sunday, apparently intending to visit Wales the next week

Loophole in prison repatriation Bill

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Planned government legislation for the repatriation of Britons imprisoned abroad could result in some prisoners serving sentences in British jails for offences not recognized here.

The Repatriation of Prisoners Bill which has its second reading in the Lords next Wednesday follows the Government's annoucement in August that Britain would ratify the Council of Europe Convention for sentenced persons.

The convention, due to be ratified by 14 countries, including Canada and the United States, says that prisoners can be sent home to serve theri punishment only where their offence is recognized in both countries.

The Bill does not lay down that the offence must be mutual, going wider by not being specific. So, a prisoner could be returned from the Middle East to serve a sentence for possessing alcohol.

The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad said that it was worried about the gap in the bill which needed clarification.

In general it supported legislation, but would brief members of the Lords. The Home Office said that it was preferable to be imprisoned in Britain rather than in worse conditions abroad.

The spokesman said that a transfer could only be made where both countries and the prisoner all agreed. The problems of someone being brought home for an unknown offence would not arise with the current signatories of the convention.

The bill also allows for arrangements to be drawn up with countries outside the convention. – negotiations with Thailand are in progress. But not those in the Middle East. The Bill's powers are wide enough for the Home Secretary to lay down what the prisoner might serve, and which a prisoner would know in advance.

Prices held by fresh turkeys

About nine thousand turkeys will have been killed and sent to butchers' shops this week from the farm of Mr Tom Copas, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Altogether about 10 million birds will be consumed this Christmas, but four fifths of those will be frozen, 750,000 of them unsold from last year.

Although supermarkets are selling frozen turkeys at less than 50p a pound, the market for fresh birds at between £1 and £1.05 a pound is holding up well, according to Mr Copas.

Unlike Welsh farmers, who expressed fears recently that the glut of frozen birds would undermine their businesses, he is confident that there are still two million families prepared to pay twice the price for better flavour and texture.

"If anything, the trade is coming our way," he says.

Army team to test life at 40° below zero

By Rodney Cowton

A party of British servicemen are to spend a year living in tents and snowholes on a remote Antarctic island which is thought only to have been visited four times.

The party will leave Britain for Brabant Island, more than 600 miles south of Tierra del Fuego later this month. It is almost entirely covered by snow and ice, and apart from facing temperatures of minus 40 degrees centigrade, the expedition will also have to endure force 12 hurricane winds.

The expedition will rely on tents and snowholes for accommodation and will not have a base hut. The objective is to carry out research into survival in harsh conditions.

Stringfellows night club wins court chip fight

The owner of Stringfellows night club in London yesterday won his High Court battle to prevent a frozen-food producer selling chips under his name.

McCains can no longer use the brand name Stringfellows on their new long thin oven-ready chips, Mr Justice Whitford ruled.

But he suspended his order for 12 weeks to give time for "hundreds of tons" of bagged chips to be sold and an appeal to be considered.

Stringfellows club and restaurant in St Martin's Lane was described by the judge as one of the top three in London. During the week-long hearing it was said to be frequented by "beautiful people" and showbusiness personalities.

Mr Peter Stringfellow, from Marylebone, north London, and his company, Stringfellow Enterprises, brought the action against McCain Foods (GB) of Scarborough, and their advertising agents Reeves Robertshaw Needham of Kensington, west London. The judge dismissed the claim against the advertising agents, ordered an inquiry into damages and awarded Mr Stringfellow his costs.

Afterwards Mr Stringfellow said that he would celebrate with "a champagne, caviar, but no chips" party.

The judge ruled that Stringfellows' reputation as a first-class night club and restaurant would be likely to decline rapidly if it became tainted.

No one suggested that McCains frozen chips are not perfectly wholesome or acceptable, but the association of the name with Mr Stringfellow was likely because of the undoubted possibility of confusion.

"An expensive, fashionable night club and frozen chipped potatoes seem to be miles apart", the judge said.

Mr Stringfellow claimed that the association of his night club with such a product as chips could damage his business. People thought he had gone into the frozen food business and was making a great deal of money from lending his name.

The judge said that this belief could have been brought about by the television advertisement shown in London and the South-east which emphasized the name Stringfellows "by a background of music and dancing in a suburban kitchen fitted with disco lights".

The company agreed not to proceed with its advertising campaign.

Mr Stringfellow opened his club in 1980 at a cost of £1m.

Predator beetles imported to protect trees

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Three hundred Belgian beetles of the species *Rhizophagus grandis* have been imported by the Forestry Commission and established in a special breeding unit in Mortimer Forest, near Ludlow, Shropshire, eventually to attack the Great Spruce Bark Beetle *(Dendroctonus Micans)*.

Unlike *R. grandis, D. Micans* prefers the bark of conifer trees, especially Sitka spruce, ultimately killing them. Since an infestation was discovered by the commission in August last year, numbers have spread

There are now restrictions on the movement of timber in the Welsh border counties and in Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire and a part of Staffordshire.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, told the Commons on Wednesday that 677 infestations had so far been discovered. A commission official said yesterday it was hoped to release about six thousand predators

Coroner halts heart transplant

By David Cross

A dispute over a Staffordshire coroner's decision to stop the heart of a maintenance fitter being used in a heart transplant operation could not have come at a worse time. The Department of Health and Social Security is preparing to launch a publicity campaign next month to encourage more people to make arrangements for their organs to be used when they die.

Although surveys show that many people were in favour of bequeathing organs, only about 15 per cent carried donor cards.

Mr Graham Alcock, aged 28, a fitter at an excavator factory in Rocester, had carried a donor card with him. Before he died last Tuesday, he told relatives that he wanted his heart and kidneys to be used for transplants.

As a result of that request doctors at the Royal Infirmary in North Staffordshire kept him alive until suitable recipients could be found for his heart and kidneys. Tests were carried out on his organs to match those of patients waiting for a transplant.

When a suitable patient was found at Harefield Hospital in Uxbridge, west London, preparations were made for a helicopter to go to Staffordshire to pick up the heart. But the unit from Harefield was called back when Mr John Wain, the deputy coroner of Stoke-on-Trent, unexpectedly called a halt to the removal of Mr Alcock's heart.

In the only statement which he has issued since taking his decision Mr Wain said that he had stopped the operation because he considered that "the pre-existing condition of the deceased's heart might be relevant to the jury inquest in due course". Yesterday Mr Wain was not available for further clarification of his decision.

But Mrs Jean Alcock, the fitter's widow, of Goldhurst Drive, Tean, has said that she was upset that the dying wish of her husband had not been honoured. "It seems he died in vain," she added. Her mother-in-law, Mrs Dorothy Alcock, also criticized the coroner's decision. Many people with organ donor cards could be dismayed that their wishes were not carried out," she said. "This has lost them hundreds of donor cards".

Mr Ray Alcock, the dead man's father, called for an inquiry into the coroner's decision. "It seems pointless to carry a donor card if the parents cannot carry out the wishes of their son", he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security in London said yesterday that she hoped that Mr Alcock's case would in no way deter people from offering their organs for transplants. The department was launching a poster, leaflet and television commercial campaign at the end of next month to relaunch the donor card system, she said.

A spokesman for Harefield Hospital said that he was disappointed that the transplant had not gone ahead as planned. But hospitals had to pay attention to what a coroner decided. "We cannot argue about it," he said.

Magistrates studying jail sentences for drink drivers after Essex lead

By Kenneth Gosling

Magistrates throughout the country will have in mind the possibility of imposing deterrent sentences when dealing with drink driving cases after this week's sentences on nine drivers at Grays, Essex.

The Bench at Grays sent one man, who had a drink-driving conviction, to prison for six months during hearings on Thursday. Of the others, all first offenders, four were ordered to be detained in police cells for four days, the rest for two days each.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said: "I am sure it will have the effect intended. The prospect of loss of liberty will operate on people's minds, particularly in the Grays area". Mr Norman said there were no examples of other courts taking similar action; but the principle of imposing deterrent sentences, for example, in cases of telephone box vandalism by young offenders, in incidents of violence and in cases of shoplifting, was a well established one.

"I would have thought generally that this was publicly acceptable", he said.

Mr Norman said since the policy concerning drunk driving was announced after the Brewster Sessions in February, only one driver had appealed against a custodial sentence. His six months' imprisonment was reduced to three.

"If anyone should think the deterrent sentence is not a sound principle, their remedy is to appeal", he said.

The Department of Transport, which has launched its pre-Christmas campaign against drinking and driving said: "Our view is that we would rather people did not get into that position; but it is only to be welcomed insofar as it might act as a further deterrent.

"The whole point of the campaign is not the hope of catching more people but that more and more will not mix drinking and driving".

Mr Charles Noad, chairman of the Grays bench, said yesterday: "Each case is judged on its merits but anybody with a high alcohol reading has a good chance of going to prison and that is heightened if it is a second occasion".

The area has seen a 67 per cent rise over a year in drink-driving cases, the national figure for convictions last year was 75,000, up 4,000 on 1981.

Mr Noad referred to a number of horrific accidents which appeared to have involved drunk drivers. Heavy traffic passes through the area, especially on the A13.

"This is the final deterrent", Mr Noad said of Thursday's sentences. "Maybe other areas are doing the same as us or are considering doing the same".

Abandoned cars 'time bombs'

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The growing number of cars abandoned on Britain's streets because of stricter MOT enforcement are potential "fire bombs" which sooner or later will kill children using them as playthings, the Automobile Association said yesterday.

To spotlight the danger, the association's *Drive* magazine carried out an experiment with a Toyota which had been left for months in a car park near Crawley, Sussex. With the fire brigade in attendance a match was applied to the interior upholstery.

This is the timetable of events which followed:

30 secs: heavy black smoke and flames.

2.5 mins: rubber pipe to petrol tank burns through and the escaping petrol/air mixture ignites in a plume of flame.

6 mins: windows and wind screen shatter. Flames increase dramatically as air rushes in.

7.5 mins: airosol cans in the boot explode.

8.5 mins: 5 gallon can containing half a gallon of petrol explodes, shooting the can lid 40 yds and setting fire to grass and anything combustible in the vicinity.

16 mins: firemen move in with high pressure water hoses.

Drive comments: "In an average metropolitan street, the fire brigade would reckon to reach the scene before 16 minutes provided they were informed the moment the car caught fire. But, as our demonstration shows 15 minutes is a long time in a blaze of this type. Imagine our Toyota in a crowded housing estate."

Mr Bob Denman, director of cleansing for the London Borough fo Haringey, said: "we have had injuries to kids playing with wrecked cars but so far nothing serious. My constant fear is that something really bad will happen. And I am talking about a death."

Haringey towed away 968 abandoned vehicles last year, an increase of 100 per cent in five years. That compares with 439 in Birmingham and 350 in Glasgow. *Drive* reports that the best councils take ony two weeks but others take months

Horsewoman fined for smuggling dog

Miss Sheila Willcox, the leading horsewoman clung to her pet dog Gip for company after a riding accident in Germany. She was so desperate to have the black, cross-bred Lurcher dog by her side that she persuaded friends to smuggle him back into Britain, bypassing quarantine rules and breaking the anti-rabies laws.

Miss Willcox, aged 51, four times Badminton winner, and the only woman ever to win in three successive years, yesterday admitted permitting the dog to be landed at Dover in contravention of the rabies laws, and was fined £500 and ordered to pay Gloucestershire county council's £40 prosecution costs.

Magistrates at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire were told that Miss Willcox, of Shenberrow Hill, Stanton, Gloucestershire, was rebuilding her career after a fall in 1971 which left her partially paralysed, when a second accident happened last May.

She had gone to Germany for a dressage competition but fell again only days before competing, seriously injuring her neck, ribs, pelvis, thigh and knee.

"I was told I would not ride again", she said in a statement to police "I could not bear to think of the future. I was extremely depressed and in a state of total despair. I decided to go home."

She said the she asked her friends in Germany, Dr Wilfred Bechtolsheimer and his wife, to smuggle the dog into Britain because "he was the only thing I had left. Everything else had gone."

Miss Willcox said that she realized her mistake as soon as her friends were on their way with the dog to a French channel port.

Mr Richard Cole, for the defence said that the dog had been innoculated against rabies in January, before his client left for Germany. The injections would have afforded immunity for at least 12 months, he said.

The court heard that the dog's stay in quarantine would end next week. The Bechtolsheimers have not been prosecuted.

Halifax paper rebuked over Ripper victim

A complaint that a newspaper persisted in trying to question a surviving victim of the "Yorkshire Ripper" despite being asked not to do so was upheld by the Press Council yesterday.

The council agreed that, despite the newsworthiness of the distressing attack on Mrs Olive Smelt, of Boothtown, Halifax, it was wrong of the *Evening Courier* to persist when it was clear that she did not want to be interviewed by its staff.

Mr Harry Smelt, her husband, complained to the Press Council that, despite requests to the editor to restrain them, reporters from the newspaper had consistently harassed his wife at her place of work, thereby putting her job at risk.

Mr Dennis Taylor, the editor, said that he did not encourage his reporters to harass or intrude into privacy. He had no reason to suspect that Mrs Smelt was reluctant to be interviewed. His understanding had been that it was Mr Smelt who was trying to prevent an interview.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

Despite the newsworthiness of the distressing attack on Mrs Smelt in August, 1975, it was wrong of the *Evening Courier* to persist in attempts to question her when it was clear that she did not want to be interviewed by its staff. As long ago as 1979 her husband had asked the newspaper not to intrude on her work; more recently Mrs Smelt was in a car with her husband when he told an *Evening Courier* reporter that she did not wish to speak to him

Later the reporter intruded into the canteen at the supermarket where she worked and improperly persisted in his attempts to obtain an interview despite it being made clear that he was unwelcome. This latest approach to her at her work place was clearly embrassing to Mrs Smelt although the Press Council is not satisfied that it jeopardized her employment.

The complaint against the *Evening Courier*, Halifax, is upheld.

Mailcoach of the twentieth century

By Michael Horsnell

Like fresh-faced ghosts, three passengers brave the winter chill outside the Pack Horse Hotel in Louth, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, awaiting the postbus, just as their ancestors did two centuries before them.

The distinctive red and yellow 11-seat Dodge is a world away from the Royal Mail stage-coach which set off from the old coaching inn on the muddy road to London.

But the concept of carrying mail and passengers by road is the same, even though the route followed by Mr John Killick, the postman, is less exciting than that of his predecessors, a 25-mile circular hop round the countryside via Muckton Bottom.

On the way, Mr Killick, aged 49, who collects the fares, stops to empty 13 post boxes.

It is one of three daily services run by the Post Office at Louth, the longest being the 55-mile morning run through Goulceby, which takes five hours and 35 minutes because the postman has to deliver the mail on the way.

But the passengers, only the oldest of whom distantly remembers more conventional bus seervices through the wolds, are patient for it is better to take one's time than to walk and better to keep rural communities in touch with each other than isolated.

The Louth postbus service was launched 10 years ago at a time when rural county councils were desperately seeking ways of divesting themselves of the financial pressures imposed by normal, under-used bus services.

Now the Post Office runs 176 postbus services, predominantly in Scotland, where more experienced postmen have been known to carry the occasional sheep and pick up prescriptions from the doctor for some of their passengers, and the service is expanding south of the border.

Last year postbuses, of which there are now *14* in England, covered 3.3 *million* passenger miles.

The Post Office, which roughly breaks even on its postbus operation, told *The Times*: "We feel it is very successful, not so much financially but because it carries on the tradition of the Post Office role as part of Britain's social fabric."

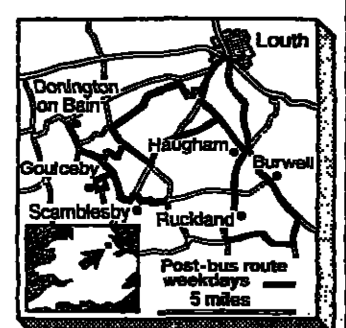
Lincolnshire County Council pays an annual subsidy of about £600 to the Post Office for the service after the complicated equation involving fares and the difference in cost between a normal post van and the postbus has been calculated.

Mr Don Nutt, the council's passenger transport manager, said: "We had to take initiatives like this in the early seventies for financial reasons and the postbus has provided a safety net for isolated villagers. It is helping communities survive, with all that that means for rural life."

Last year, the Louth postbus carries about 1,500 passengers and raised nearly £500 in fares. The passengers, some of whom live in hamlets with as few as seven houses, are in transports of delight over the bus.



All aboard: Passengers of the Louth postbus (Photograph: John Manning).



Mrs Pat Henshaw, a pensioner from Bargate Tathwell, a hamlet with 35 houses, asked: "Where else would you get a postman prepared in all weathers to drop you at your door with a pile of shopping?

3 years for man who 'reenacted film chase'

Melvin Cross, aged 29, who crashed through a police roadblock and into car with a family of four still inside, was reenacting the scene from the film *Vanishing Point* Norwich Crown Court was told yesterday.

In the film the driver of the car is chased across the United States and dies in a fire after crashing the car into a police roadblock. After watching the film Cross stole a car from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, drank a bottle of vodka and wine, smoked cannabis and was then chased by police up to speeds of 90mph before crashing into a hastily set up roadblock at Wormegay, Norfolk.

Mr John Farmer, for the prosecution said Police Constable Malcolm Reeves leapt for his life seconds before the car driven by Cross hit an almost new Mini Metro, which had been stopped by the police at the roadblock and the police car. Still inside the Metro was Mr Gordon Phillips a teacher, of Holly House, Fincham, Norfolk, his wife Josephine, his son Joshua, aged 10 and daughter, Holly aged seven.

They suffered minor injuries but their car was written off and was replaced at a cost of £3,500 with the police paying the bill.

Cross, unemployed, of Kersey Avenue, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, was jailed for three years and banned from driving for five years after pleading guilty to motoring offences.

Cross, who had numerous motoring convictions, was told by the Recorder Mr Gerald Draycott:

Within five weeks of being released from jail for a previous conviction of reckless driving you committed an even worse offence. I have never listened to a more horrifying case of driving than yours and you are extremely lucky you are not facing life imprisonment for manslaughter.

You are highly dangerous. Someone who takes a car then drinks and takes drugs is like a wild beast and as dangerous as a *lion* which he escaped from its cage".

Job fight by social worker

A social worker was dismissed after he allowed one of his staff to have a love affair with a disabled woman, an industrial tribunal in London heard yesterday, when the social worker claimed unfair dismissal and sought reinstatement.

Mr Tom Hulley, aged 36, had earlier stopped two relationships between staff and residents at St Michael's House, Welwyn Garden City, where he was manager, because he felt they were harmful.

But he decided that the affair between Miss Patricia Gaye, aged 23, who is confined to a wheelchair, and an assistant, Mr Phillip Lucy, aged 23, was not dangerous, Mr Herbert Laming, director of social services for Hertfordshire County Council, said.

Mr Laming said that Mr Hulley, from Stevenage, should have sought advice and approval from his superiors.

He said that Mr Lucy was given a written warning. "He had acted properly and reasonably by taking guidance from Mr Hulley and had been reassured that the relationship could go ahead."

Mr Laming said that he had been told about the affair in July by another resident. He dismissed Mr Hulley from his £11,000-a-year job in August after investigating the allegation.

The hearing was adjourned until February 2.

Whitehall-police clash on drugs

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers may be heading for a collision over Whitehall criticism that chief constables are not responding strongly enough to Britain's increasing drug abuse problems.

Senior officials are understood to be extremely unhappy at the association's "lack lustre" reaction to a government policy statement this week by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on curbing drug abuse.

Mr Brittan put forward the Government's plans in a speech on Wednesday. At the same time, the association issued a statement to coincide with his announcement.

The four-sentence statement, which went largely unreported, said that police shared the concern about drug abuse. While the police were working with customs officers on various initiatives the problem, none the less, was one for society as a whole.

There was a need for an "inter-agency approach" involving the courts, doctors, teachers, social workers, and parents.

The statement was greeted in Whitehall with the feeling that the police were little short of abdicating their own responsibility in fighting drug abuse. It was seen as another illustration of the difficulties the Home Office believes it is encountering.

For some years there has been growing frustration that the association, which represents senior officers in forces across England and Wales, has not taken the increase drug abuse sufficiently seriously.

Civil servants believe that the police have been partly influenced by the series of corruption incidents found within Scotland Yard's drugs squad during the 1970's. As a result, customs investigators have taken the initiative in many major cases, leaving the police with minor investigations or small possession cases.

Within London, Scotland Yard is known to feel that the current drugs squad of about 40 men is adequate to meet the demands of the capital's large drugs black market. Surveys by the police have not shown any undue public concern which might be met by increasing the squad.

Whitehall would like to see greater emphasis on dealers rather than the small-time street operators, and indications of more energy and commitment from chief constables.

Restoration to start on Whitehall site

By John Young

The restoration of Richmond Terrace, in Whitehall, which for the past three and a half years has been cocooned in a giant polythene envelope, is to go ahead. A contract has been awarded to Taylor Woodrow Construction, and work will start next month.

The once handsome Georgian terrace stands opposite Downing Street, on a route used by millions of tourists every year.

In 1969, it was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new Home Office building, but there were angry protests and, after a public inquiry, the Government agreed that the facades at least should be retained, along with Norman Shaw's New Scotland Yard.

In 1973, it was vacated by the Foreign Office as unsafe. Two years later the Government commissioned a study into its possible use as offices for MPs and in 1978, Mr Peter Shore, then Secretary of State for the Environment, announced that restoration was to go ahead at a cost of £8.5m. It is now estimated that the complete restoration project will cost £28m.

Sailing ships rot in Falklands grave

By Tony Samstag

At least 500 wrecked British and American 19th century ocean-going sailing ships are rotting off the Falkland Islands because there is no preservation programme, the Falkland Islands Foundation says.

Its newsletter published this week described the ships as "the finest natural museum of nautical antiquity in the world", which "in the turmoil of post-war Falklands are every bit as threatened as the wildlife".

Sir Peter Scott, who established the foundation in 1979, praised military efforts to minimise disturbance of the square riggers.

Mr Michael Mensun Bound, a maritime archaeologist and an islander, says that the ships "are mostly survivors of the great trades which flourished during the last century with the west coast of South America and "required the best ships in order to survive the heavy loads and the constant slamming westerlies around Cape Horn".

But many could not take such punishment and limped into the Falklands harbours, turning them into the world's largest nautical graveyard. The wrecks have survived because of the islands' isolation and climate.

Mr Bound says that the American vessels *Charles Cooper* and *Snow Squall* the most important. The *Cooper*, a packet ship built in 1856, "dominates Stanley's waterfront" but is in a critical condition.

The *Snow Squall* is "the only true survivor of a clipper ship", of which only about 40 foot is above water.

Some ships have been bought by American museums

PARLIAMENT December 16 1983

MPs support Bill designed to break conveyancing monopoly

Commons

The House Buyers Bill, designed to weaken the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors received its second eading in the Commons by 96 votes to 76 – majority 20, after a closure motion had been carried by 100 votes to 14, a majority of 86.

This occurred after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, had announced that the Government intended to introduce its own legislation to extend the right of conveyancing not just of registered land, with which the Bill dealt, but of all land, to solicitors employed by building societies and banks, subject to safeguards.

He indicated that the Government intended to proceed promptly so as not to delay the introduction of additional competition. The Government's mind was not closed to the possibility of solicitors employed by other than building societies and banks being included, but in some cases there might be conflict of interest.

The Director General of Fair Trading would ensure that competition was fair. The Government wanted to see house buying made simpler and cheaper.

We have decided (he said) that more can be done to consider the process of conveyancing as a whole with a view to simplifying the practice and procedure wherever possible and will set up a special committee under the Law Commission to examine various proposals and to ensure that the work going on in many areas is coordinated and the work kept under review.

The Government intended that the committee should come forward with recommendations for cheapening and simplification of conveyancing and house purchasing which it would be anxious to adopt. The Law Society supported this.

The sponsor of the Bill, Mr Austin Mitchel (Great Grimsby, Lab), in moving the second reading, said the monopoly of conveyancing held by solicitors was keeping the process of house buying in the age of the quill pen. The Bill made provision for the licensing of conveyancers.

The process of house buying could be greatly simplified by grouping all the various agencies, legal, estate agents, banks, and building societies, in one group rather than leaving it to the house buyer to coordinate all their activities.

All that was preventing such a move was the monopoly on conveyancing held by solicitors; it stopped the process dead.

The Bill would clear away some of the obstacles which prevented at least a move towards a comprehensie system.

It was not as if drawing up conveyances was a particularly skilled task in most cases. All it required was an ability to read and to put names on a form, and that was scandalous.

The monopoly not only stopped other people doing the work: it even stopped solicitors competing with estate agents as was allowed in Scotland. The introduction of competition would make conveyancing easier, cheaper and more efficient.

The Bill was only a partial measure to allow solicitors to adjust to competition which was undoubtedly going to come, rather than trying to sweep away the monopoly in one fell swoop.

Every national newspaper editorial had supported him woth a unique chorus of support. *The Times* had said the Government would do well to enact the Bill and "take the protestations of the solicitors with a pinch of salt".

This monopoly (he said) is odious, it is unpopular, it is contrary to the spirit of the age and it must go.

Sir Walter Clegg (Wyre, C), chairman of the all-party solicitors' group said it used to be the case that there was no competition within the profession but now that there was



Sir Walter Clegg: competition for conveyancing

no scale system, there was considerable competition for conveyancing. It was not unusual for firms to be asked for quotations as people shopped around.

If it was a monopoly, it was a strange one, with competition within the monopoly and from outside the legal profession already.

A major difficulty to which Mr Mitchell had not addressed himself was that of non-solicitors being dishonest or careless with money. He understood it was impossible to insure against one's own dishonesty but solicitors had a fund into which all paid to cover the solicitors who defaulted. Unrestricted conveyancers would have to get together in groups for such a purpose.

Mr Kenneth Weetch (Ipswich, Lab) said that conveyancers already had corporate policy which covered them for dishonesty.

Sir Walter Clegg said that the Bill had a major deficiency in providin no test for competence.

Mr John Morris, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said if he thought the legislation in its final form would result in a disservice to the consumer or lessen the protection given, he would not support it. While there were criticisms to be made, he did not think the aims could be anything but beneficial.

Conveyancing was a £1,000m industry and formed the bulk of many solicitor's incomes so the question that had to be asked was whether the system was meeting today's needs in the best way.

There was need for a careful approach to make sure that one monopoly was not simply changed for another, or for a duopoly, if that was the right word. If the banks and building societies were to do the work, there would have to be changes in their legislation and he was not aware of any keeness by the banks to take it on and the building societies were divided.

The Bill would act as a catalyst given the need for a fundamental examination of the law of property transfers and the adoption of today's technology, but it might be a matter for the Law Commission and that body ought to be given the resources to get on with the job.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said the Government was on solid common ground with the sponsors in their objectives. Lack of competition with a conveyancing practice acted just as insidiously to induce unnecessarily high charges and indifferent service as did lack of competition with a greengrocer.

Buying a house was probably the most expensive and momentous personal transaction anyone undertook and if it went wrong, it could cause disaster and misery. The issue seemed to be how best to achieve competition with adequate safeguards for house buyers not sufficiently expert to be able to safeguard themselves.

But the protection in the Bill was inferior to that given by present arrangements. Equally, the Government felt the existing degree of competition was unduly restrictive.

There were three main options – to develop competition between solicitors in private practice; to enable solicitors employed by organizations like banks and building societies to do the work; to widen the field of conveyancers still more by establishing some form of licensing system to permit non solicitors to do it.

Competition between solicitors had already improved greatly in recent years, and the third option would not provide the necessary protection. But extending conveyancing rights to employed solicitors offered a serviceable means by which a further element of competition could be injected.

It was essential to protect the interests of the borrower and it was necessary to consult interested parties about how potential conflicts might be overcome. It was right that that should be looked at before legislation. It was an instance where competition could be increased without prejudicing protection for the consumer.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) said he thought some 80 per cent of conveyancing was done without any solicitor activity, or with only a minimal amount.

Sir Ian Percival (Southport, C) said nobody should think all conveyancing was a doddle. It was not. Neither did he like the thought of someone wanting a bridging loan from the bank having the bank say it would do the conveyancing, too. This would put consumers at risk in an invidious situation. Thirdly, the Bill's provisions on qualifications for conveyancers bore no reference to competence.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L) said he supported the aims of the Bill but it did not fulfil its aim of protecting consumers. It was so flawed as to make it difficult to improve it.

Mr Mitchell, replying to the debate, said the public had been cheated by a squalid Government manoeuvre. The Lord Chancellor had triumphed. A half dead mouse had been laid before the House.

Six other Bills unopposed

Six backbench Bills were given unopposed second readings in the Commons. They were headed by the Child Abduction Bill which replaces the offence of child stealing with two new offences, one dealing with the abduction of children from the UK by a parent or anyone else connected with the child, and the other to deal with abductions by people unrelated to the child.

The Anatomy Bill contains provisions about the use of whole or parts of bodies for anatomical examination.

The Juries (Disqualification) Bill disqualifies from jury service in England and Wales those who have criminal records. The length of disqualification depending on the sentence.

The Lotteries (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 to abolish certain offences relating to foreign lotteries.

The Trade Marks Act 1938 (Amendment) Bill seeks to give registration to trade marks for services in addition to goods.

The final Bill nodded through was the Agriculture (Amendment) Bill to enable guarantees of bank loans to be made for a wider range of cooperative marketing businesses. It also amends the law on the number of directors of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

New bureaucracy feared

House of Lords

Two Bills designed to combat discrimination against the disabled received unopposed second readings in the House of Lords. Such discrimination was a revolting, contemptible evil, the **Earl of Longford** (Lab) said about his Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) (No 2) Bill to make discrimination illegal and set up a Disablement Commission. He said discrimination persisted on a wide scale.

The debate also covered the similar Disabled Persons Bill. That was promoted by **Lord Campbell of Croy** (C) who said it would make the Disablement Commission the chief instrument for investigating difficulties and discrimination experienced by disabled people.

It did not create new laws and new offences in an area difficult to define and prove – deliberate discrimination against the disabled.

Earl Attlee (SDP), in a maiden speech, called for a screening process to discover children suffering from dyslexia.

Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said the Government believed the difficulties which so many disabled people had to contend with were the result of a variety of specific practical problems which required specific practical answers. These would not be removed by some sort of "catch all" law.

Both Bills were unacceptable to the Government. Should either receive a second reading, the Government would not provide sustenance for them at any further stage.

Both Bills were read a second time.

Protest over equal pay

Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President to the Council and Leader of the House, promised to convey to the Government the feelings of peers who protested in the House of Lords that in spite of an earlier Government defeat in the House over the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations, the regulations were to come into force on January 1, 1984.

The vote in the Lords on December 5 resulted in a defeat for the Government by four votes, when peers expressed dissatisfaction with the details of the regulations.

After the **Earl of Gowrie**, Minister of State, Privy Council Officer, had announced that the regulations would become operative on January 1 and that they were in conformity with European Community law, some peers, led by **Lord McCarthy**, for the Opposition, protested at the decision.

Lord Shinwell (Ind) said that time and again opinion in the Lords took a certain line on policy affecting legislation but the Government paid no attention and the matter was completely ignored.

I am concerned (he said) about the implementation of ideas ventilated in this House. (Cheers.)

The Earl of Gowrie assured him that it was not the case that the Government did not take into account the views expressed in the House. It took them most seriously.

Viscount Whitelaw said he must make clear that far from not paying attention to the House his job as leader was to pay strict attention to what the House said.

I shall make sure (he went on) that the Government fully appreciates the feeling in the House. The House, constitutionally and correctly, did not vote against the regulations but expressed a view.

هكذا من الأصل

Israel denies offering safe conduct for evacuation of Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government yesterday stepped up its war of nerves against Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, by flatly denying that it had given any guarantee of safe conduct to the Greek authorities for his proposed evacuation from Tripoli.

The denial, which followed reports of contacts between Israel and Greece over the plan, was made by a senior Government official at a briefing for foreign journalists. "Israel did not give any commitment to anyone about anything," he said in answer to repeated questioning.

The briefing, which came hours after Israel's fourth naval bombardment of PLO positions around the north Lebanese port was apparently designed to maintain the high level of international apprehension surrounding the evacuation. Asked if the central thrust of Israel's policy was to keep the world guessing, the official acknowledged candidly: "Maybe that is the name of the game."

Despite the denial of contacts, direct or indirect with the Greeks, it is still considered unlikely that Israel will launch any attack once Mr Arafat and his 4,000 men are on board their Greek vessels under escort from French and American warships. But increased Israeli military action in Tripoli up until the final moment of embarkation is considered a firm possibility.

Yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, held private talks with Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, at which the subject of the evacuation is understood to have been discussed. Neither party would give any account of the meeting to the press.

Earlier, Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, played his part in the policy of attempting to prevent, or at least delay, the PLO guerrillas departure by again expressing the hope that Western nations would not "assist the evacuation of the PLO with their weapons to other locations where they can continue their terror activities against Israel and non-Israeli targets".

The minister claimed that Israel was using diplomatic channels to try and persuade any nation preparing to assist in the evacuation to first get "a commitment from Arafat that he will lay down his arms and stop all terror activities".

Speaking after a memorial service for the 28 Israeli Druze Arabs so far killed in the Lebanon war, Mr Arens said on Thursday: "If we cannot convince them to forbid Arafat and his terrorists to operate from anywhere else, we will have to consider the situation and decide what to do about it."

He then added ambiguously: "I hope we will not come to the point where we will be forced to open fire on the ships evacuating Arafat and the terrorists from Tripoli."

When asked directly whether Israel would, in fact, take such far-reaching action, Mr Arens declined to engage in what he described as "speculation".

Apart from the psychological gains from the climate of uncertainty, the Israelis are also determined on a rigid point of principle never to be seen giving a public guarantee of safe passage to Mr Arafat, whatever the Government's real intentions towards the evacuation maybe.

● ATHENS: The 6,222-ton Greek ferry-boat Verghina, flying a United Nations flag, was the first of five Greek passenger ships to sail from Greece yesterday for Tripoli (Mario Modiano writes).

A Greek Government spokesman said that the five ships would meet up at Larnaca, in Cyprus from where French war ships would escort them to Lebanon for the rescue operation.



Yuletide: Lance-Corporal Sowders, of the US peace-keeping force in Lebanon, rescuing his Christmas tree from a tent hit by rocket fire.

Anger at 190 pc inflation

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Israeli trade unionists yesterday launched a series of mass protest demonstrations directed at the Government's failure to solve the serious inflationary spiral now destined to produce an all-time record inflation rate between 190 and 200 per cent by the end of the year.

The three days of protest were prompted by the publication of official statistics showing that prices rose by 15.2 per cent during the single month of November, bringing to 40 per cent the erosion in wages registered over the past two months.

Despite the latest grim economic statistics, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Prime Minister, pledged publicly on Thursday that there would be no cutback in the costly programme of continuing to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The failure of his new Finance Minister, Mr Yigal Cohen-Orgad, to exercise restraint on runaway inflation is posing a growing threat to the Government's chance of winning the next election. All recent opinion polls have placed the ailing economy above the continuing involvement in Lebanon as the main cause of the Likud Government's declining popularity.

The new Finance Minister is now faced with the beginning of a workers' protest movement led by the Histradut, the Israeli equivalent of the Trades Union Congress, aimed partly at his efforts to cut back the almost total index-linking of all inflationary price rises. The demonstrators are demanding an immediate payment of 17.9 per cent in the allowance given to every salaried employee in Israel to recompense them against the inflation rate.

A Treasury spokesman attempted to play down the severity of the latest price rises by claiming they had been expected. He blamed them squarely on the previous policies of Mr Yoram Aridor, who resigned ignominiously from the Finance Ministry in October after details were leaked of his controversial scheme to switch the whole Israeli economy onto a US dollar basis.

But the claims did little to soften the effect of the latest price rises (including a 188 per cent increase in the cost of food products over the last 12 months) which, according to economic experts, means that the annual inflation rate for 1983 will be close to 200 per cent. This compares with recent government pledges that the rate of increase would soon be reduced, and inflation cut back to double figures.

During the past 11 months, prices in Israel have already risen by 160.5 per cent, ensuring that the annual figure will easily outstrip the previous record total of 132.9 per cent inflation reached in 1980 – also under a Likud government.

The new series of workers' demonstrations is just one of many pointers that the runaway rate of price increases is now beginning to threaten the whle social fabric of the country.

Police deter Solidarity protests

From Roger Boyes, Gdansk

A huge concentration of police in Gdansk and other Polish cities yesterday deterred Solidarity supporters from obeying the appeal of the underground opposition to stage large scale demonstrations and marches in town centres.

Riot police quickly dispersed a group of young Gdansk shipyard workers chanting: "Solidarity, Solidarity" in front of the port's railway station. Hundreds of militia vehicles, including water cannon trucks, stood by in the streets of Wroclaw, Nowa Huta and Warsaw but at nightfall the situation was reported calm.

The main flashpoint was Gdansk. Here, in the birthplace of Solidarity, Mr Lech Walesa was due to deliver a speech setting out a programme for Solidarity supporters defining pressure points on the Government and areas in which the banned trade union should concentrate its activities.

But Mr Walesa, who is suffering from a high fever, did not appear at the towering monument outside the Lenin shipyards which commemorate the striking workers who were shot on December 16, 1970. Instead, his wife Danuta – who also received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of her husband – made the 500-yard trek from St Brigid's Church to the Monument.

Several hundred riot police blocked off the approach roads and in a series of checkpoints sifted away the few hundred sympathizers who had followed her. In the end, only Mrs Walesa, a frail figure thickly coated against the sub-zero temperatures, and her secretary were allowed to lay a wreath.

"Speeches have to have audiences," Mr Walesa told reporters who telephoned his home, explaining why it was pointless to try and deliver his programme to a sea of blue uniforms. Shipyard workers leaving the yards after the end of the morning shift took in the row upon row of militia vehicles and their accompanying functionaries and avoided the monument, walking instead to the railway station.

Here several dozen, perhaps as many as 150, started to chant but were quickly stifled by the police, who blocked the trams, cordoned off one side of the street and yelled at passersby to get into their trains or stay indoors.

In Warsaw, around Constitution Square where workers were supposed, had they folowed the instructions of the underground, to gather, the police parked militia vans and checked the documents of Christmas shoppers. Women were told to empty their bags and Christmas trees were unwrapped to prove that they did not contain weapons or leaflets.

Several hundred Solidarity sympathizers subsequently walked through one of the main thoroughfares of the capital, but they did not chant or brandish banners and the police left them alone.

West sees hope in Pretoria's Angola offer

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

The South African proposal for disengagement of its forces in southern Angola has been met with surprise and scepticism by black African countries, which saw it as a ruse to gain Western sympathy. The West, however, thought it offered possibilities for settling the issue of Cuban troops in Angola.

In a letter to the United Nations on Thursday, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said Pretoria was prepared to disengage its troops on condition that Angola provides assurances that it would not exploit the situation.

This meant that neither Angola's forces, nor Cuban troops protecting the MPLA regime, nor Swapo guerrillas operating from Angola with the aim of securing Namibia's independence, could make moves in the area. Although it was not spelt out, the offer sounded much like a proposal for a demilitarized zone.

The proposal in itself was not new, since it had been the subject of negotiations between South Africa and Angola which broke down earlier this year. South African officials said the date set to begin disengagement, January 31, was negotiable and meant to give impetus to a resumption of talks.

The offer came as the Security Council met at Angola's request to consider South Africa's occupation of southern Angola. Africans saw it as a preemptive move to escape serious calls for sanctions and reduce Western Pressure for a Namibian settlement.

But the proposal fits in neatly with attempts by the five-member Western contact group to place the removal of South African forces from southern Angola within the context of Cuban withdrawal. Angola has rejected the idea of connecting a Namibian settlement with the departure of Cuban troops and, although the proposal is linkage by another name, it would seem to make it more palatable.

South Africa has said it will not give up Namibia unless it has an undertaking that the Cubans will leave. Although only the United States supports it in this position, many other countries are privately convinced that the two issues must go hand-in-hand if there is to be a Namibian solution.

Tha Angolan initiative in the Security council is considered to be part of a domestic campaign aimed at rallying Angolans against the rebel Unita organization; which operates in the south with South African support and poses a threat to the stability of the government in Luanda.

While South Africa has never officially admitted that its forces are entrenched in southern Angola, Western analysts estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 troops are in the area.

No evidence Andropov is working again

Moscow (Reuter) – US and West European diplomats say they have no evidence that President Yuri Andropov is back at work after his four-month absence. They denied reports from Washington that western embassies in Moscow had already sighted him.

"A Politburo motorcade has been seen driving regularly to and from the Kremlin but so far there is no evidence that Andropov is inside it", one diplomat said.

A senior Communist Party spokesman, Mr Leonid Zamyatin, said last week that the 69-year-old President was recovering from an illness and already working again. Speculation now is whether he will appear at a plenum of the party's Central Committee on December 26 or 27.

Cocaine haul in New York

New York (AP) – A record 1,600 lb of cocaine with an estimated stree value of £110m was seized and three men arrested in what the authorities said was the largest drug seizure ever in the New York city area.

The cocaine, described as high-quality Colombian, was found in duffel bags and boxes when a combined federal, state and city drug task force arrested the three men late on Thursday in Queens Borough.

Minister quits

Santiago (Reuter). – Chile's Foreign Minister Senór Miguel Schweitzer, resigned after 10 months defending the record of President Augusto Pinochet's military government. Last week the UN General Assembly passed its annual censure vote on Chile's human rights record.

Envoy moved

Moscow (AP) – The Soviet Ambassador to Angola, Mr Vadim Loginov, has been "relieved of his duties and transferred to another post," Tass said. He is replaced by Mr Arnold Kalinin, ambassador to Portugal between 1974 and 1982.

Basque blasts

Las Bardenas (Reuter) – An officer and a soldier were slightly injured when two bombs planted by suspected guerrillas went off at a military shooting range near this northern Spanish town.

Ice breaker

Yamoussoukro (AP) – Ghanaians working in the Ivory Coast gave an airport welcome to Ghana's military leader Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings who arrived for talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, their first bilateral contact. Until now both have regarded each other with open suspicion.

ANC man arrested in South Africa

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Five whites and an alleged black African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla have been arrested in the Johannesburg area. Major-General Frans Steenkamp, the head of the South African Security Police, said the whites, including two women, were arrested as a result of investigations after the conviction for high treason last month of Mr Carl Niehaus, aged 23, a white student, and his fiancée, Miss Jansie Lourens. They are being held incommunicado under the Internal Security Act.

General Steenkamp described the black guerrilla as a well-known and trained ANC terrorist and said arms, including Soviet-made limpet mines, had been seized. Last week, Security Police annnounced the arrest of two suspected ANC guerrillas after a shootout in the Coloured Johannesburg suburb of Eldorado Park.

Meanwhile, security was stepped up in Johannesburg yesterday after a bomb blast on Thursday evening in a city-centre office of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Seven blacks, women office cleaners and watchmen were slightly injured in the explosion which occurred only a few minutes after the evening rush hour.

It was the third attack on government offices in Johannesburg – all carried out with limpet mines – this month.

● Sea change: Signs apologizing for apartheid will be put up around whites-only children's paddling pools on the beach front at Durban, South Africa's main coastal resort.

Many a slip: Reaching for a woman customer's lighter, Sydney waiter Richard Daldini fell from the Harbourwatch Restaurant's balcony and was left hanging 50ft up

East block attacks on peace activists

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

The policy of stationing new Soviet missiles in Eastern Europe has been accompanied by an extensive security police campaign against independent peace activits. Arrests, raids on flats, the interrogation of relatives, warnings to employers: it all seems a long way from the relative calm and immunity of the Greenham Common protest.

The oficial perception of the East European peace movement has been changed by the West German parliament's decision to approve deployment of US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles. Now, an outspoken peace protester in East Germany or Czechoslovakia is immediately suspected of damaging the vital defence interests of the state if he or she opposes the stationing of Soviet missiles.

This is a more serious offence than "anti-state activity" – the all-purpose anti-dissident legislation – applied against the peace movement in the past.

Two East Germans, Fräulein Bearbel Bohley and Frau Ulrike Poppe, of the Women for Peace group, were arrested recently after meeting a visiting British CND activist, Miss Barbara Einhorn, who was detained on the East-West border. Notes of the meeting were confiscated.

The Women for Peace group has at least 100 members, who have been organizing unofficial meetings. There are several small independent peace groups in East Germany – the most notable was in Jena, before arrests crippled it. Most shelter under the wings of the Protestant church.

The church, in turn, has been trying to steer the movement into opposing the militarization of East German society – compulsory military education in schools, for example – rather than opposing the new Soviet missiles, which is dangerous territory.

Both East Germany and Czechoslovakia have agreed to accelerate deployment of "operational-tactical" missiles on their territory in response to the missiles in West Germany.

This evoked rumblings among independent peace compaigners in Czechoslovakia, but without strong church protection, the movement has not thrived. Police have picked up anyone questioning the rationale of the Soviet deployment.

In Brno, police interrogated pupils from three schools after circulation of a petition opposing the missiles. Teachers were warned and reprimanded and one pupil, Petr Pospichal, was arrested when he travelled to Prague.

Earlier this year about 300 young people – officialiy described as drunken hooligans – made use of the government-sponsored Prague Peace Congress to stage a private peace demonstration. The sentiment behind it seemed to be a vague devotion to youth-cult figures – above all, John Lennon, the former Beatle – and their commitment to universal disarmament.

Although dissidents have had trouble recently in Hungary – above all, it has been difficult to maintain the flow of samizdat literature – the peace group known as Dialogue has continued to function. It does not attract the same interest as in East Germany, but it has been in the forefront of the debate about how far East European peace activists should separate the campaign for peace from the campaignn for civil rights.

Polish film makers resist party rule

From Our Own Correspondent
Warsaw

Poland's film-makers have virtually excluded Communist Party members from their governing board and have approved the idea of a special studio unit to produce films of interest to Roman Catholics.

The decisions showed that Poland's cultural associations – in the main banned or reorganized because of their political sympathy with Solidarity – still possess some independent life. Andrzej Wajda, Poland's leading director responsible for such films as *Man of Iron* and *Danton*, returned to Poland to address the congress of the film-makers this week, having been earlier persuaded to give up the presidency of the union.

"As a chairman, I have lost", he told the congress, "but this defeat could be turned into a victory if the association takes control of its own fate."

The film-makers responded well to his appeal. A Central Committee secretary, Mr Waldemar Swirgon, had earlier told the film-makers that it would be unwise to reelect Mr Wajda – whose support for Solidarity has always been strongly stated – that they should avoid political statements of support for the banned Writers' Union for example, and should have a large Communist Party representation. Instead, only five out of the 37 main board members are in the party and they – including the vice-chairman, Mr Jerzy Hoffman and the president, Mr Jerzy Kawalerowicz – were chosen more for their acknowledged skill as fim-makers rather than for their political status.

One young film director said that as the majority of Poles were believing Catholics, it was only appropriate that a production unit be set up to make films on church themes.

Party directors opposed this but the new chairman of the association, Mr Janusz Majewski, said that the proposal should be put to a vote and the suggestion was carried overwhelmingly.

Whether the Government will make funds available for such an idea seems doubtful however – it is difficult to imagine a project that would upset the hardline Marxists in Prague and Moscow.

The main hardliner at the congress, Mr Bohdan Poreba, criticised Mr Wajda and the presentation of a prize to him by young film-makers.

Killings in Indonesia 'should be over now'

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

The spate of summary killings of alleged criminals which human rights groups claim have left up to 4,000 dead in Indonesia this year were supposed to have ended in August, Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister said yesterday.

Mochtar, speaking at a press briefing, said: "The official position is that these things were not supposed to have occurred after the President's (National Day) speech in August when he said these measures have to be carried out within the dictates of the law."

The foreign Minister said he had received notes from several foreign governments exressing concern over the killings, but said he had not yet seen a message from the International Commission on Human Rights which is also understood to have expressed concern over the killings.

The shootings of alleged criminals in main cities met with little opposition and considerable public approval when they started early this year. Newpapers carried front page photographs of bound and bullet-ridden bodies, many of them carrying the tattoos worn by ex-convict gangs.

Vatican attacks boxing as coma victim worsens

Milan (Reuter) - The Vatican newspaper yesterday questioned the morality of boxing, as the condition of an Italian fighter who collapsed last weekend deteriorated.

An editorial in the *Osservatore Romano*, citing the case of Salvatore La Serra, who is in a coma, said no sport or spectacle could be accepted by a civilized conscience if it put human life at stake.

Other sports, such as car racing and mountaineering, were arguably more dangerous,

Global abuse of journalists continues

By David Cross

The International Press Institute, the watchdog of press freedom, has issued more protests about abuses against journalists this year than at any time during its history.

Free speech is respected in only a small part of the globe, the institute says in its annual report published today. Highest on the list of protests is Turkey. Journalists and editors too numerous to mention have been sentenced to heavy fines or stiff jail terms, charged with offences which most people in the free world would not even consider crimes.

Most of Eastern Europe continues to jail journalists and writers, as does most of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. "Some do not even bother with the luxury of prisons: some prefer more direct measures like the bullet".

Newsmen and publishers have found that speaking the truth is not a guaranteed right of the individual, but something to be suppressed or distorted, the institute says. The signatories to the United Nations Charter on Human Rights or the Helsinki Agreement are breaking their word. "Today, only a small part of the globe can boast that free speech is respected and honoured. The rest of the world is gagged."

The institute also critizes the free press for reporting too little about abuses against journalists. "Those governments who are the worst offenders are often guided by the reactions of the outside world," it says.

The report also singles out South Africa as a country where press freedom is under constant attack. Mroe than 60 per cent of the editors of the main Sunday newspapers have been convicted r threatened with prosecution.

In many other countries, journalists face other dangers byt their plight rarely comes to light. "Many governments around the world continue to dispose of troublesome reporters silently. "Some are 'disappeared', never to return, while others are placed in hospitals for the insane, only to be released when they are 'cured'."

Mauroy intervenes in car dispute as recession bites deeper in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The recession, which came later to France than to most other industrialized countries, is finally beginning to pinch, causing unions and management to harden their positions and the Government to quake.

The announcement on Thursday by the car manufacturer Peugeot-Talbot that it is to close indefinitely from Monday its factory at Poissy, outside Paris, where workers have been on strike for the past week in protest against redundancy plans, is almost certainly a sign of worse to come on the industrial front.

Peugeot, France's largest privately-owned car manufacturer, which is expected to lose 2 billion francs (£170m) this year, took the decision to lay-off its 17,000 workers at Poissy in an attempt to force the Government to accept its proposals for nearly 3,000 compulsory redundancies at the factory. The redundancies are part of an overall slimming plan for the company involving the loss of nearly 10 per cent of its 18,000 workforce.

It is a sign of the gravity with which the Government is treating the dispute that M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has himself decided to take the matter in hand. Emergency meetings were taking place between the Peugeot management and the Government yesterday.

The long-brewing crisis in the car industry could not have come to a head at a worse time for the Government. Within the last week it has been severely attacked for the alleged inadequacies of its industrial policy by two groups from which it might have expected more support – the Socialist CFDT union, and the Communist Party, which only a fortnight ago signed a new agreement with the Socialists pledging greater loyalty to the Government.

Describing the Government's industrial policy as "secretive, inflexible and incoherent," M Edmond Maire, the moderate general-secretary of the CFDT, accused the Government of following up its "magnificent promises" with silence. "They say nothing, they announce no plans, no schemes, no figures. They keep the unions in complete ignorance."

The Government was spending huge sums amounting to 52 billion francs (£4.300m) this year to try to stop the industrial decline, but nothing was being done to prepare for the future, he complained. He feared that the Government's "march into the dark" would lead workers "to despair and revolt".

The CFDT's cry of alarm is not totally devoid of self-interest, however. The union has been much criticized for being a "toady" of the Government, and at the social security elections last October, it saw itself drop from its traditional number two position in the trade union hierarchy to number three. It has lost 15 per cent of its membership over the past year.

It was also important for the CFDT that the Communists and the Communist-led CGT union should not be seen to be the only defenders of workers' jobs which are now being lost in the industrial sector at a rate of 30,000 a month, twice the rate at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, lay-offs are expected soon in coal, steel, construction, engineering, chemicals and textile industries.

A few days earlier, M Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, wrote to M Laurent Fabius, the Industry Minister, saying that it was "high time" that the Government followed its words by actions, and showed "greater rigour in keeping its promises in the crucial field of industry."

As M Fabius was away, it was M Max Gallo, the official Government spokesman, who launched the counter-attack. "To believe and to make others believe that you can always prevent redundancies, keep non-profitable businesses going, and accept ever greater losses, is to render a disservice to the workers, firms and the country, and disarm France in the tough field of international competition," he insisted.

The Government reluctance to help lame ducks has also been referred to recently by M Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister. "Some enterprises are declining, others are being born. The longer you keep the former in an oxygen tent, the more it will cost the taxpayer, and the less money there will be for new projects. And at the end of the day, instead of having 100 unemployed, you will have 200 unemployed," he said.

Figures announced yesterday show that the number of unemployed rose by 3 per cent last month, having been kept stable at around 2 million or just under 9 per cent of the workforce for more than a year.

The Government continues to insist that it will take what measures are necessary to prevent unemployment rising



Vetran's treat: President Mitterrand of France talking in Belgrade yesterday with Mr Dragomir Tulimirovic, aged 90, a veteran of the First World War, holding his unit's regimental flag. The French President placed flowers at a monument commemorating French assistance to Serbia during the First World War.

On the second day of his 3-day visit, he urged Moscow and Washington to resume negotiations (Dessa Trevisan writes).

He said the conference on European disarmament, which is due to open in Stockholm next month, might provide an opportunity for a "useful dialogue". This in itself would be a "positive factor", he stated.

M Mitterrand, who is on a three-day visit here, singled out the role played by the neutral and non-aligned countries at the European security review conference in reaching a compromise, urging them to persevere in their efforts at the forthcoming European conference on disarmament.

President Mitterrand went on to emphasize the importance which France attaches to the role Yugoslavia is playing between East and West, as well as in the non-aligned movement.

Seaga storms to pyrrhic victory

By Jeremy Taylor

Jamaica faces the prospect of five years with a one-party Parliament. Having thrashed independent and fringe candidates in a mere six constituencies in Thursday's elections Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister and the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) now control all 60 seats in the House of Representatives. The other 54 seats were won uncontested.

Mr Michael Manley's Peoples' National Party (PNP) refused to contest them in protest at Mr Seaga's failure to honour a 1980 agreement on electorial reform.

Mr Seaga had called a election two years early citing a crisis of confidence after the PNP had called for his resignation as Finance Minister. His personal popularity had increased after he helped to engineer the American-led invasion of Grenada six weeks ago and the affairs had also distracted attention from the Government's failure to produce the economic recovery it provised. Mr Seaga's gameble has now bought the JLP another five years.

However, the Opposition boycott leaves a large question mark over the election result. Mr Manley, who argues that the three-year-old voting list disenfranchises 15 per cent of the electorate and contains 100.000 names of people who have died or migrated, knows that Mr Seaga has a very difficult task ahead in producing economic recovery and is expected to push for the swift impleminta*tion of the agreed electoral reforms* followed by fresh elections.

Jamaica's economy is still far from the "deliverance" that Mr Seaga promised when he swept to power in 1980. He managed to negotiate a large support programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) borrow more than $1,000m (£714m), produce the first positive economic growth in nearly a decade and revive tourism.

But Jamaica has been unable to earn the hard currency it needs. A weak market for its main commodity bauxite, together with rock bottom sugar prices and heavy debt servicing – $530m this year – have robbed the island of precious foreign exchange.

Unemployment is steady at around 26 per cent. Inflation is increasing sharply after being brought below 5 per cent and last summer factories were working at an average of only 49 per cent of capacity.

A series of experiments with multiple exchange rates and a parallel currency market failed to bring in the expected flow of foreign exchange and at the end of September Jamaica failed for the second time this year to meet the quarterly performance test of the IMF, severely embarrassing Mr Seaga, causing a 43 per cent devaluation and leading directly to premature elections.

A new 15 months standby credit with the IMF is being completed.

Mr Seaga promises that the lack of Parliamentary opposition will not result in "unwise or insensitive Government"

But the election result could lead to increasing political tension or a resurgence of political violence

Plea to UN over activist's trial

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The unofficial Soviet peace organization has appealed to Señor Perez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General and to Western peace movements to prevent the impending trial of Mrs Olga Medvedkova, one of the group's founding members.

An appeal yesterday by the Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USA and the USSR said Mrs Madvedkova and four other unofficial activists had been arrested by police in October during the trial of Mr Oleg Radzinsky, a fellow member.

The peace campaigners were manhandled and detained in a derelict building by plainclothes policemen who refused to identify themselves.

The five were later released, but last week Mrs Medvedkova was charged with assaulting a police officer and ordered not to leave Moscow. She is to appear at the Moscow prosecutor's office on Monday.

Members of the group said they feared the authorities would arrange an unusually swift trial and sentence. Mrs Medvedlova, aged 34, a geographera and wife of the group's founder, Dr Yuri Medvedkov, is likely to be sentenced to three years' hard labour under the penal code.

Mrs Medvedkova said the four other activists had testified that she had at no time engaged in violence and that the peace group's policy was one of passive resistance. The group says it avoids both criticism of Soviet state policy and direct clashes with the authorities, but has been systematically persecuted since it was founded in June last year.

Dr Medvedkov said the decision to try his wife was part of a KGB secret police campaign to "pick off the group's steering committee one by one". The committee maintains strong links with Western peace movements and was visited by more than a hundred Western campaigners this year.

Mrs Medvedkova said the authorities were apparently taking belated revenge for an incident last May when three founder members of the Greenham Common women's movement visiting Moscow took her with them to a meeting with the officials to listen to an exposition of the Group of Trust's aims and philosophy.

The Soviet group also said that any statements from prison by members should not be taken as genuine "if they conflict with our present convictions". This follows the release of a purported letter of repentance written by Mr Radzinsky from Siberian exile. It reached Western correspondents and also appeared in Mrs Medvedkova's postbox, even though the Medvedkovs have received no mail for a year. Their telephone has also been cut off.

Author who accused paper jailed

From Mario Modiano
Athens

The author of a book accusng the top-selling Athens daily *Ethnos* (The Nation), a leftist tabloid, of being an instrument of disinformation of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, was sentenced by an Athens court to two years' imprisonment.

Mr Paul Anastasiadis, a Cypriot journalist working in Athens as a correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The New York Times* was found guilty on two counts of libel. He was set free pending appeal.

His book, *Take The Nation In Your Hands* (the paper's main advertisng slogan) was banned by the court, but after the appeal was lodged, the order was rescinded.

Mr George Bobolas, publisher of *Ethnos*, who has business links with the Soviet Union, and the paper's editor, Mr Alekos Filippopoulos, were awarded damages of £110 each.

The court's verdict rejected the defendant's case that his book offered conclusive evidence that *Ethnos* had been published in cooperation with the KGB's disinformation department to influence Greek public opinion in favour of Soviet policies.

Coup officer swindled orphan fund

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Antonio Tejero, who held the Spanish Parliament at gunpoint during the 1981 coup attempt, has been accused of investing, for his own gain, money which he had promised would go to the orphans of "victims of terrorism".

Tejero, a former Civil Guard lieutenant-colonel, is serving a 30-year sentence for military rebellion. He gave the promise about the money after *El Alcazar*, the extreme right-wing Madrid daily, collected more than 18m pesetas (£80,000) from an appeal it launched to help him to pay the fines the court martial also imposed.

The accusation against Tejero is one of the conclusions of an all-party committee set up by Andalucia's regional parliament to investigate the collapse last year of the Rural Savings Bank of Jaén, which is the centre of Spain's olive oil industry.

The committee, after a one-year investigation, found that Tejero invested the money transferred to him by the newspaper and was subsequently helped to withdraw it, with the interest, by executives of the bank just before it was saved by government intervention. Other investors were not so lucky and lost money.

Argentina to find out why 7,000 disappeared

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin has appointed a commission to investigate the disappearance of more than 7.000 people who vanished during the Argentine military campaign against urban terrorism in the 1970s.

The 16-member commission, which includes journalists, authors, churchmen and scientists known for their concern about human right violations will have access to military and Government records in order to determine what happened to the missing persons.

The commission will have no power to try those responsible for the murders, but has been instructed to submit all evidence of possible crimes to the courts. It is to produce a report on its findings in six months' time.

Argentine human rights groups have documented the disappearance of more than 7.000 people who are believed to have been kidnapped and killed by Government security forces during what the military has called its "dirty war" against left-wing subversion from 1976 to 1981.

But relatives of disappeared people and human rights activists believe the figure of missing people is closer to 30.000, due to the many incompletely documented cases and instances of disappeared persons whose families did not report them as missing out of fear.

Meanwhile, former President Isabel Peron, who was overthrown by the 1976 military coup, prepared to leave Argentina after a one-week visit during which she met President Alfonsin and began what is expected to be a thorough purge of the Peronist party which she formally heads.

Senora Peron was flying back to Madrid for what she promised would be a brief stay before returning to take full charge of the movement she inherited from President Juan Peron.

Iran's war fever fuels Iraqi panic

By Richard Dowden

As the Gulf war grinds through its fourth year the Iraquis are seeking peace at almost any price short of capitulation but Iran's internal politics dictate that it must continue until the Baghdad Government falls.

The war is going well for Iran. It can sustain a steady pressure on Iraq, draining its resources and forcing it to be dependent on the Gulf States. Meanwhile the heavy casualities – some estimate that Iran has lost nearly a quarter of a million dead – help to maintain the revolutionary fervour and concentrate the minds of the people on an external enemy. The Khomeini regime has invested too much in the war to end it with anything less than the fall of President Saddam Husain of Iraq.

It is sometimes suggested that the return of the Iranian Army from the front would create problems for the regime; but the troops have been purged and indoctrinated and the political capital accrued from the defeat of Iraq could keep the regime going for years.

The war channels the energies of the militant youth. One Revolutionary Guard told me: "When we have rid Iraq of Baathism, we shall liberate Lebanon and Palestine".

While the tactics of the Pasdaram, the Revolutionary Guards, are similar to Hitler's Brown Shirts or Mao's Red Guards, their fervour mingled with leftist fury gives them a self righteousness and the conviction of having God on their side. "Our revolution is to change people not just structures," one told me. "I have a duty to protect you from harming yourself by failing to obey the law of God just as I have a duty to stop you jumping off that building."

Supplied with fleets of new white Nissan Jeep-style vehicles they force their way through the Tehran traffic with an arrogant disregard for traffic laws or civil police. *Their uniform* is dun-coloured clothes, anorak or jacket, open-neck shirt and at least three days growth of beard. Some of them have bulges under their jackets. They pursue sin as vigilantly as political oppposition and are as likely to be seen stoppng a woman for not having a proper veil as leading the crowds in chanting slogans against their enemies.

The question in many people's minds is whether they can be controlled or whether they and their leader, Mohsen Rezai, will become an independent force.

It is the Pasdaran who have effectively made Khomeini the undisputed ruler of Iran. They have crushed the Mujahadeen, the Islamic leftist opposition, and recently they attacked the offices of the Freedom Party, the only surviving secular party in the Majlis (parliament).

Although there is great discontent in Iran over the war, the shortages and the imposition of Islamic law, there is no organisation able to harness it into political opposition. Only the Grand Ayatollahs present any resistance to their fellow cleric but since their main objection to Khomeini is that the Ulama (clergy) should not be involved in politics they cannot take their opposition further without undermining their own position.

The question every observer asks is what will happen when Khomeini dies. Although he is apparently removed from the structures of government, all power passes through his hands and his word is law. But he represents more than political leadership and his power will *not die with him*. If they grab his mantle his successors will be able to rule in his name for some time. Provision has been made for the election of one, three or five successors but it seems likely that Hojjatoleslam Akbar Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Majlis, will assume the reins of government and Ali Hussein Montazeri the only Grand Ayatollah who totally supports Khomeini, (he is also his son-in-law) will assume a figurehead role. These two *politicians* have been making moderate statements over the past year trying to reassure the professional and commercial classes.

But there is little evidence that the Ayatollah is near to dying. He is 81 but is said to be in good health and has a brother aged 96. He and the Gulf war could be with us for some time.

UN move threatens Antarctic Treaty

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A United Nations study on the status of Antartica and the exploitation of its resources has been requested by the General Assembly in a move that could jeopardize the meticulously constructed Antarctic Treaty and pave the way for universal decision-making in the region.

Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, has been given a year in which to prepare the report. He will have to thread a fine line between the signatories of the treaty and the rest of the world's nations which would like to see Antarctica declared the common heritage of mankind, and make its largely untapped resources available to all.

The report provides a period of grace for the treaty's 16 consultative parties who joined in the consensus resolution calling for the report rather reluctantly. Faced with an immediate confrontation, they chose the lesser of two evils, but the issue will undoubtedly become an emotive one in a year's *time*. Delegates recalled that the genesis of the now concluded Law of the Sea treaty was a seemingly innocuous statement by Malta calling for the sharing of the sea's wealth.

This time Malaysia, which explored ways to make its international mark, came up with the idea of launching as international debate on Antarctica, a clarion call which was quickly echoed by a majority of the UN's membership who do not like the treaty's "gentlemen's club".

Any attempts to unravel or tamper with the treaty which sets aside conflicting claims to sovereignty over the continent and contains vital disarmament provisions, are expected to encounter stiff resistence from the United States and the Soviet Union. *The* treaty is one of those rare instances in which the two super powers find themselves in agreement.

The treaty has been in existence for 24 years without attracting much notice, comprising an alliance of 14 initial consultative parties.

Poll shows Mondale is Democrats' choice

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

The approach of Christmas brings good news for Mr Walter MonDale but disappointment for Senator John Glenn. According to a poll carried oUt by *The Washington Post/ABC News*, the former Vice-President is continuing to pull ahead of Senator Glenn and six other Democrats seeking the 1984 Presidential nomination.

Mr Mondale's support among registered Democrats is now equal to that of all the other candidates combined. The poll showed that Mr Mondale is the choice of 49 per cent of registered Democrats, compared with 23 per cent for Senator Glenn, 10 per cent for the Rev Jesse Jackson and 8 per cent for Mr George McGovern.

One of the poll's most *significant findings* is that Mr Mondale is running stronger against President Reagan than Senator *Glenn*. Mr Mondale and Mr Reagan are now neck-and-neck among registered voters.

The poll also shows that Mr Mondale's support is highest where it counts most if he is to gain the Democratic nomination next year – among those most likely to vote in Presidential primaries which are scheduled to get under way in February.

A separate poll carried out by the Louis Harris Organization has indicated that President Reagan's overall approval rating has begun to slip after rising sharply following the Grenada invasion.

Denmark faces election on January 10

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

A general election was called late on Thursday night in Denmark for January 10 following the failure of the 15-month-old Conservative-Liberal minority coalition Government to secure a parliamentary majority for its 1984 budget.

The Finance Bill, the hub of the austerity policies of the four-party Government of Mr Poul Schluter, Denmark's first Conservative Prime Minister since 1901, was rejected by 93 votes to 77 in the Folketing (Parliament) after a gruelling 12-hour debate.

The Bill contained drastic public expenditure cuts affecting social services and sickness and unemployment benefits designed to reduce Denmark's state budget deficit from this year's 62.000m kroner (£4.400m) to around 58.000m kroner (£4.084m), the first drop in the country's budget deficit in a decade.

Mr Schlüter said that he was asking the electorate for an improved mandate to continue his Administration's policies of economic revival. The Social Democrats, the largest opposition grouping, voted against the budget for the first time since 1929 along with two leftist parties when the antitax Progress Party of Mr Mogens Glistrup, the tax lawyer currently serving a three-year prison sentence for gross tax fraud, refused to support the Government after insisting unsuccessfully on further cuts in public spending.

Only the small centrist Radical Party supported the coalition in the vote. The defeat of the Government on its economic policy followed a recent series of humiliating parliamentary rebuffs on foreign policy issues, notably Nato *missile deployment policy* which Mr Schlüter has been forced unwillingly to oppose by the opposition.

Recent opinion polls predict a landslide victory for Conservatives who stand to almost double their present 26 seats in Parliament at the cost, however, of their coalition partners. This makes it extremely doubtful whether Mr Schlüter will be able to form a majority Administration after reelection.

Only two out of Denmark's political parties will run in the elections. There are only nine in the current 179-seat parliament.

The last Danish general election was in December 1981.

Why Britain's rebate was blocked

Three pretenders to the EEC throne

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

An intense power struggle is under way between the three main institutions of the EEC to decide who actually rules in the Community. As a result, Britain, this week saw an agreed budget rebate blocked by the Parliament, while the whole Community is teetering on the brink of a destructive cash crisis.

The power struggle derives from the fact that the 14-member Commission has been unable to prevent the Council settling into the driving seat of all the Community processes. At the same time, the Parliament, anxious to make a name for itself before next June's direct elections, is jostling for attention.

The Council can claim the right to be top dog for one reason – it pays. All the money to run the Community has to come from the different member states, whose representatives sit as the Council when they meet. They may not always agree. Indeed, in recent months, they have been able to agree on distressingly few things. But they all recognize that they must collectively retain control over the purse strings.

With the failure of the Athens summit to accept reforms essential if the Community is to continue and develop, the Commission has begun a late bid to seize back the initiative. And, in doing so, it is relying heavily on the support of the Parliament, which is also resentful of the Council's power.

The day after the summit ended, the Commission produced a declaration and announced a new strategy – or rather announced its intention of returning to the old strategy. In future, it said, the Community would return to the original rule book laid out in the Treaty of Rome. That said, in essence, that the Commission proposes and the Council disposes.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, spelt this out clearly before the Parliament last Tuesday. In future, he said, the Council would not be allowed to make its own proposals it would have to confine itself to amending Commission porposals. The Commission would stick firmly to its ideas.

Mr Thorn described the chaotic way the preparations for Athens had led inevitably to failure. With too many countries making too many proposals, the inevitable happened.

Parliament applauded him. Like Mr Thorn, it has been resentful of the way the Council has been usurping its rights. It tooke the council to court for failing to agree to a transport policy in line with the treaty obligations. With the failure of Athens, it believes that it too can steal the limelight as the responsible European institution and can thus attract popular support in the June elections.

The vote to freeze the British rebate was not revenge on Britain for the failure of the summit. It was taken because this gesture was the only one it could legally make – and there remains doubt as to its legality – to protest at the Athens' failure.

With the Community so short of money, the Council is much more anxious to reassert itself. France, perhaps more than any other country, is particularly keen to restrict Parliament's role.

This was behind French ideas before the Athens summit to fix strict limits to Community spending. The system it proposed would have reduced Parliament's authority in the budget process to virtually nothing.

There is no great belief in the Council that the Commission has the leadership or initiative to win more power.

In the words of one diplomat: "These boys don't have the guts to do anything but moan."

Children ask Santa to send us peace

Himmelpforten (AP) – The letters to "Dear Santa" are again pouring into this West German town with a heavenly name – it means 'Heaven's Gates' – but this year their theme is different.

Instead of pleading for sledges or toys, the children are asking Santa to stop the nuclear arms race and bring peace to the world.

The self-appointed Santa, Herr Wilhelm Pilarski, a 70-year-old retired village manager, who tries to answer all the 15,000 letters he receives annually, said: "They are asking for a peaceful world, for the dismantling of weapons. That's the big theme."

Others are worried about hunger. An three-year-old boy named Christian, from Nuremberg, asked him to take cakes and chocolate to African children. Two little girls from Oldenburg, Stephanie and Daniela, wanted nothing for Christmas because they knew children in other countries were hungry.

"Many children write about jobless parents and family problems, such as grumpy fathers and overbearing older brothers", Herr Pilarski said. "Many of the letters are quite sad."

One boy, Torsten, wrote to say his mother wants a one-year separation from his father. "Please give me something to help me understand this," the boy wrote.

The letter-writing tradition started in 1962, when a German journalist reported about a six-year-old girl who had written to Santa at Himmelpforten, and received a reply, penned by a local postman. After that the letters poured in.

At first the postmen answered them all but when Herr Pilarski retired 10 years ago he became a full-time Santa. He and his wife Margarethe answer every letter, sometimes with the help of the neighbours. The cost of the operation is shared by the post office and the village.

Japanese conservatives head for victory despite vague poll predictions

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Pollsters remained remarkably vague over just how well Japan's ruling Conservative Liberal Democrats (CDP) will perform when voters go to the polls in Sunday's general election, the first in three and a half years, as candidates took advantage of the last few hours of an indecisive 15-day campaign.

What is virtually certain is that Japan will wake up on Monday to find the conservatives still in charge. Opposition parties are expected to face mixed results, with the biggest, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), battling uphill. Japan, therefore, will continue to pursue the increasingly outward-looking and nationalistic polices being shaped by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister.

Indeed, the election has taken on the look of an internal LDP popularity contest, rather than a referendum on national policies. Most importantly, the results will probably foreshadow Mr Nakasone's chances of remaining as leader in a party vote late next year.

Mr Nakasone has campaigned hard to project a statesmanlike image emphasizing diplomatic accomplishment since coming to office a year ago. Two days before the vote, the Prime Minister announced he will visit China in March. The visit is timed significantly between an exchange of official visits by US and Chinese leaders.

The strategy may work. Mr Nakasone modestly claims the this party will achieve at least a simple majority in the election. Most surveys say the LDP, in power since 1955, will come close to a stable majority of about 270 seats in the 511-member Lower House allowing control of most important committees.

This compares with 286 LDP seats when Mr Nakasone called the election to end more than a month of parliamentary deadlock which followed the Oct 12 conviction of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, on bribery charges in the Lockheed trial.

Projections of the results generally have allowed for such wide margins of error as to make them meaningless. The *Asahi Shimbun*, for example, a *harsh critic* of Mr Nakasone and Mr Tanaka, who controls the biggest faction in the LDP, said yesterday that the LDP would win 278 seats. This is the highest among the polls published so far, but it is hedged within a margin of 267 to 289.

US accepts Australian nuclear arms curb

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Canberra believes the United States has accepted its position that nuclear-armed warships will be allowed to use Australian dry docks only in emergencies. But talks with Britain have not been so fruitful.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said on Thursday that, after telephone discussions between Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister and his British and US counterparts, differences with Washington had been resolved.

However, talks between Canberra and London had not been so successful after the dispute over the ban on the British aircraft carrier Invincible using the navy dry-dock at Garden Island, in Sydney Harbour. Invincible now seems certain to go to Singapore for repairs. The ship is scheduled to spend Christmas in Australia.

"I would think in respect of the United States the matter is resolved – they understand and there will be no problems there. There's a bit more discussion going on with the United Kingdom. This matter will be resolved in a way which is totally satisfactory to our allies and to us, without any change in principle.

"These lurid suggestions that our alliances in some way or another are threatened are just bogwash."

Mr Scholes said he had initiated the talks with Mr Heseltine, the British Defence Secretary and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, to discuss "the means by which the existing guidelines on visits by allied naval vessels can be developed to take account of special requirements for dry-docking."

The talks were preliminary and would be followed by others between officials from the three countries.

On Thursday Mr Scholes visited the Invincible and lunched with her captain and the British High Commissioner, Mr John Mason. Afterwards, Mr Scholes blamed the media and the federal opposition for the problems over the issue of dry-docking nuclear-armed vessels.

Treasure chest

Tokyo (AP) – A bakery lorry driver, scrounging for boxes in a Tokyo dump, discovered 50m yen (£150,000) worth of diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and rubies discarded in error by a jeweler's staff. His reward for turning them in was £15,000.

Panda prizes

Peking (Reuter)–Chinese peasants are being offered rewards of up to 500 yuan (£175) for saving starving giant pandas, the *China Daily* reported. The reward is about double the annual income of the average peasant.

India's cars to lose their 1950s look

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The look of India's roads is about to suffer a drastic change. "It is a revolution", exclaimed one of the senior civil servants who is masterminding it.

At present the cars on streets here look as though they might have popped out of a film made in the 1950s. If you remember the Morris Oxford of that era you have the image of the Ambassador, the most popular transport in the country, indeed the only car made here that comes near to taking comfortably the full weight of an Indian family.

Remember the old Fiat 124? That is the other principal car on the road. A small car, seriously underpowered all the same, which looks a trifle more dashing than the heavy, round-*shouldered Ambassador.*

The only other Indian car is now out of production, but there are still a number of them around. They are based on the sharp-looking Triumph Vitesse of the latter 1950s.

Foreign cars are not much seen. When they are they belong either to diplomats or to pop stars. The cost of import tax is horrendous.

But this week a new generation of cars began to appear.

On the birthday of her late son Sanjay, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, formally inaugurated the assembly line of a new car, planned by Sanjay as a people's car. It is produced by a Government-owned factory specially built just outside Delhi and is called the *Maruti* – named after the goddess of the winds.

The building of the factory, like everything concerned with Sanjay Gandhi was controversial. People complained that their land was taken from them at unfairly low prices for the factory. Sanjay Gandhi was a personal friend of Mr Bansi Lal, the Chief Minister of Haryana, where the Maruti factory lies.

Commentators have been sniping at the project ever since, but at last the first cars have appeared, and the sniping has turned against the waiting list of people who want to have one. *The first year's production is* already well oversubscribed, and cars are to be sold on a lottery basis.

The car is fundamentally a small Suzuki, and is being manufactured in cooperation with th Japanese. It has disc brakes, front wheel drive, a modern wedge shape and a petrol consumption which is half that of the "gas-gusslers" at present on the road.

Though not officially announced, both the other major car manufacturers hope to be able to launch new fuel-efficient models shortly. Hindustan Motors, the manufacturer of the Ambassador, are expecting to produce a vehicle with engine and transmission by the Japanese firm Inuzu, and a body like the Vauxhall produced by General Motors in England.

Premier Motors in Bombay, who produce the Fiat, are also in talks with foreign manufac*turers to produce a new version.* Even Standard Motors in Madras, who used to produce the Triumph-based model, still have a motor car production licence and may be tempted into the field by the lifting of price control which has accompanied the new policy.

The civil servants and their political masters certainly hope so. It is claimed by the car manufacturers that they were inhibited from modernizing their model lines by stringent price control in the past.

The Government would like to see what happened in the tractor industry repeated with the cars. There more than 10 firms entered the market when price control was lifted. The intense competition created its own price controls, but at a realistic level.



Revolution ahead: The present 1950s-style look of traffic

Mexico's democratic tyranny

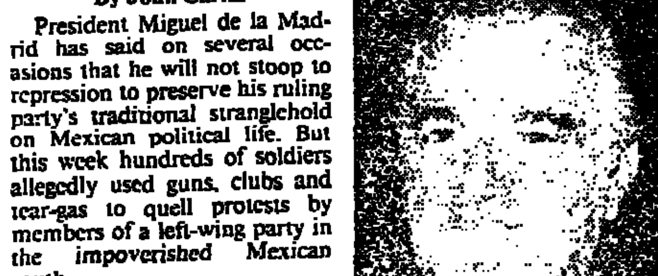
By John Carlin

President Miguel de la Madrid has said on several occasions that he will not stoop to repression to preserve his ruling party's traditional stranglehold on Mexican political life. But this week hundreds of soldiers allegedly used guns, clubs and tear-gas to quell protests by members of a left-wing party in the impoverished Mexican south.

Despite heavy government restrictions on press coverage, reports have surfaced of many injuries after thousands of men and women in Juchitán, in the state of Oaxaca, fought troops on Tuesday over possession of the town hall, a potent symbol for Mexicans of political authority.

On Wednesday soldiers and police arrested 300 members, including all the leaders, of the local left-wing Coalition of Workers, Peasants and Students (COCEI).

Bishops from three states in southern Mexico have condemned the Government-in-



President de la Madrid: Empty promises?

spired action which comes at a time when opposition political parties of left and right are vociferously denouncing a wave of alleged fraud by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in recent local elections.

The COCEI claims that the PRI wrested power from them unfairly in municipal elections in early November. Subsequently they refused to relinquish possession of the town hall, which they had held since winning elections in March, 1981.

Gun-toting PRI henchmen have a history of terrorizing COCEI sympathizers in Juchitán.

President de la Madrid came to power a year ago with expansive claims that he would "morally renovate" traditionally corrupt Mexican politics. But after "clean" elections in July yielded triumphs for the opposition unprecedented during 50 years of uninterrupted PRI rule, the PRI has been winning elections in other states by its usual, astonishingly ample margins.

Past experience in Mexico has indicated that, whenever its massive political authority is under threat, the PRI's lurking capacity for violence and fraud will tend to rise to the surface. Mexican human rights groups claim that more than 600 people have "disappeared" for political reasons in Mexico in the last 10 years.

THE ARTS

Theatre



Donald Cooper

Susan Fleetwood as Prince Charming: Skilful note of ardour

Tradition served up limp

Cinderella
Lyttleton

Much as the nation may hunger and thirst for a return to traditional Christmas pantomime, the National Theatre has gone beyond the call of duty with this limp museum piece.

The work of Bill Bryden, Trevor Ray and the company, it *is a faux naïf exercise, requiring* the audience to respond to the story as if they had never heard it before. The style is directly opposite to that of the Players' Theatre's Victorian burlesques. And although there is a safety curtain decorated with faded advertisements for Ellman's Embrocation and Bull Dog Bottled Beers, it relates to no particular period.

The idea is to conjure up a timeless romance, drawing on the old routines and painted scenic effects of a vanished age, and leave the story to do its work. Resorting to the most destructive word in my vocabulary, I can only describe the result as "tasteful".

On the design side, there is a glaring disparity between the sets and costumes. William Dudley's dropcloths and wing pieces take you from a wintry opening to a sunny finale by way of an elaborate sequence of delicately muted interiors and palatial prospects.

Against them, Deirdre Clancy dresses the company in bright metallic tights and harsh primary colours. The intention seems to be to draw maximum attention to the artificiality of the spectacle; asking spectators simultaneously to take the story straight and to view it as if between quotation marks.

The same thing applies to the dialogue, most of which consists of excruciating panto couplets, full of badly scanned lines and tortuous inversions; none of which is ever played for a laugh. You can admire the skill with which Susan Fleetwood's gleamingly voluptuous Prince manages to extract a note of heartfelt ardour from the tongue-twisting banalities she has to get through; but more striking is the sheer perversity of the operation.

How, one wonders, can an acting company of this quality have cooked up such rotten work. Perhaps for themselves. I had hopes of Marsha Hunt's transformed Dandini ("Charmin's the name, Ruling's my game"), but the part soon fades out into a smirking side-kick. Trevor Ray, as the Baron, is credited with no characteristics whatever apart from a habit of turning up as a Scout Master, a Red Indian, and other rig-outs.

As for the Uglies, a nut*cracker-jawed Derek Newark* and Robert Stephens snaking on like a pensioned-off geisha, take comic make-up to the limit, but otherwise occupy an aridly undercharacterized zone of spotted bloomer jokes and groan puns.

Meanwhile, a sizable pit orchestra confines itself mainly to supplying piano and violin accompaniments for parlour song-book items and pumping out Paderewski's minuet for the *bal masqué.*

There are more rousing numbers, but even then Mr Bryden's stage looks underpopulated – as, in the sight of the Prince dancing with Janet Dibley's colourless Cinders surrounded by an inert half-circle of guests.

The pace of the production is leisurely, even in the routines of Jack Shepherd and John Tams, as the brokers' men who come on saying "We are the brokers' men". The only figures to benefit from this are the reluctant Demon (James Grant) whom Mr Bryden has boldly imported from the Glasgow Empire; and the wordless decorators, whose duel with the brushes and paste earns its laughs from the extreme of relaxed slow-motion.

Irving Wardle

School for Scandal
Duke of York's

I liked John Barton's production very much at the Haymarket in February, and enjoyed seeing it again. Christopher Morley's perspective set of receding prosceniums, knowingly borrowing motifs from the Haymarket's decor, gains from the intimacy of this tiny jewel-box as much as it loses in point.

And the elegant austerity of its sepia fabrics and bare wood floor fits the production's best qualities: alert intelligence and an awareness, never outweighing the comedy, of the darker realities of trying to build a loving marriage in a bitchy society.

There was always, incongruously, another side to the production: farcical business and interpolations more silly than successful. Donald Sinden's Sir Peter Teazle and Beryl Reid's Mrs Candour were very naughty at times but are now more under control (only just, in her case). Both are very funny: she as a "little painted poppet" (as Garrick said of Dr Johnson's wife) who beneath her protestations of outrage at scandal is a very nasty old lady, he as a robustly complacent but decent Georgian Gentleman with more good-heartedness than guile.

Nicola Pagett, the new Lady Teazle, has an abrasiveness and sparkle, more a chastened *amoureuse* than a dizzy butter*fly poignantly coming to her moral senses.* Clive Francis, another newcomer, mines Joseph's schemings less for their cynical selfishness than for polished comedy, uttering his pious maxims in a wiseacre's voice belying his youthful looks.

Some touches have lost sharpness, notably the exquisitely comic auction scene, with Charles idly holding the crucial Sir Oliver portrait in his free hand while the old gent, unrecognized, fascinatedly awaits its fate. But Michael Siberry's Charles, a wastrel who like Lord Rochester is never quite sober, and Michael Denison's ripe Sir Oliver happily reappear, along with Dulcie Gray's drily detached Lady Sneerwell and Gordon Gostelow's lovably uncaricatured Moses.

Anthony Masters

Concert

Opposites attract

Lontano/Martinez
Purcell Room

Writing of Webern's Four Pieces for violin an piano in the current *Musical Times*, Arnold Whittall makes the *highly* provocative suggestion that we have been wrong to look for seeds of unity in atonal music of this sort, that we should hear rather a range of contrasts displayed and completed. Perhaps this is something that performers of Webern have known all along.

Certainly the performers of these same pieces, Ruth Crouch and Shelagh Sutherland, allowed the first movement simply and gently to play out its balance of oppositions, with evenly sustained violin notes and justly weighted piano chords that had relinquished all shaping effort.

The faster numbers, though, demanded and got a more hectic engagement, for it is only when the notes are few that they can wholly dislocate themselves from any unifying force.

On the other hand, there is Brian Ferneyhough's ironically titled *Unity Capsule*, the Annapurna II of flute music, where the "capsule" is a quarter-hour stretch of the most fiendishly difficult music spinning off in every conceivable direction. Here, too, the performer is meant to be frustrated in his attempts to bend the music to his own purposes, since there is so very much else to think about, and Ingrid Culliford last night came closer than anyone else in my experience to the ideal of dedication.

She openly acknowledged the *strain she was under* while sticking there and achieving a thoroughly remarkable intensity of effort and variety of effect. A concluding gasp was her one moment of self-dramatization, *thoroughly justified.*

If Ferneyhough is one of the few composers still seriously concerned with the energy of fragmentation in Webern-music from around 1910, Ligeti well represents the alternative comic viewpoint. It was a good piece of programming to follow *Unity Capsule* with his *Nouvelles adventures* and its absurd drama of disintegrated music for three singers and seven players.

Penelope Walmsley-Clark, Linda Hirst and Bruce Ogston acted out their myriad vocal *personae with happy enthusiasm under well-timed direction* from Odaline de la Martinez.

Miss Walmsley-Clark took a quite different role, that of eloquent but ice-cold enchantress, in Oliver Knussen's setting of an Apollinaire vision, *Océan de terre*. This beautifully made score, variously globular and sprightly, was firmly tackled by Lontano.

Paul Griffiths

Television

Hearty mischief

A kind of ill-health clinic where the disaffected affluent go to be stuffed with over-rich food, plied with expensive wines, subjected to unaccustomed exercise, and patronized by the proprietor was the situation of Andrew Davies's black comedy Heartattack Hotel on BBC2 last night.

Usually the two functions of *over-indulgence and over-exer*cising are separated. Both frequently have great expense in common, with less of a guilt-feeling, and less satisfaction perhaps, attaching to the latter.

Despite the coincidence of gourmet living with a regimen calculated to strain an SAS man, none of the guests in this hotel had any early suspicion of *mischief afoot.* Nor were they alerted by the extraordinary nature of their companions or the extravagant behaviour of the owner, played just short of extravagantly by Michael Gough.

The hero, a doctor – 40, fed-up, and fast-fading – is seeking without much optimism to dissipate his ennui with his mistress, a nubile dynamo less well-bred but of hardier disposition and game for anything or, it appears, anybody.

One such game finds her in bed with a corpse, and by this time we were aware that the denouement would be as corpse-strewn as the last act of *Hamlet*. The owner later comes clean, expressing his belief that "we feel we can help them (the guests) into the darkness with dignity".

It was sustained by good acting – particularly by Amanda Hillwood as the nubile one, Hugh Fraser, the doctor, Robert Lang as a constantly erupting estate agent, and Madge Ryan, the owner's wife – a luxurious setting, and the direction of Mike Vardy. It was more an occasion for the occasional chuckle than continuous laughter, but it did well enough, as one would expect with *Rosemary Hill as producer.*

Dennis Hackett

Opera

Earthbound

Hansel and Gretel
Bloomsbury

The Bloomsbury Theatre is celebrating Christmas, and its hosting over the last two or three years of a stimulating run of "fringe" opera productions, with a show of its very own. *Hansel and Gretel*, long absent from London's professional stages, is the theatre's first house production, and the main sponsor, Prudential, has given free tickets for a theatre-full of underprivileged children on Christmas Eve.

In view of all this it would be nice to report, with Gretel, the "this place must be enchanted". But, alas, it is not. Not only for the sweetness of her voice is Eileen Hulse's Sandman one of the most potent forces of the evening. Humperdinck's music, full of echoes and surprises, of forest murmurs and sparks of Straussian magic, is flattened by the theatre orchestra and Christopher Fifield to a soporific mezzo-forte of mood and movement.

On stage too, the dramatic tension that is lacking in Christopher Renshaw's staging has to be generated by rather a lot of smoke without, alas, very much fire. A few light bulbs twinkle nicely round the angels' scaffolding frame, or wink fearfully behind the wiry forest bushes. In Robin Don's Habitatty land of early 1970s chic, Hansel and Gretel, caught between realism and the search for a style, spend their time limbering up in a rather arch set of little exercises devised for them by Sally Gilpin.

They sing well enough: Jill Washington's Gretel (taking turns with Catherine Benson) is sweet and nimble; Maria Aguszʼs Hansel (next week Jane Findlay) is vocally sound and imaginative as well. Catherine McCord's Gertrude and, particularly, Glenville Hargreaves's Peter, make their mark vocally if not dramatically.

Sheila Steafel's misguidedly comic Witch is, as she says "harmless as a baby child". Decrepit and batty, it is difficult to know whether it is her inefficiency or that of the staging that keeps her and her broomstick as earthbound as the entire production.

Hilary Finch

Radio

Strong ideas at a quiet pitch

"I wouldn't want them to be too cautious, but I would want *them to be sensible.*" Thus, in our 1983 **Reith Lecture**, Sir Douglas Wass explained his idea of a permanent royal commission in his final lecture (Radio 4, Wednesday; producer, David Morton) as a means of enlarging public influence on the doings of government. The key words, "not too cautious, but sensible" might equally be taken as the epitome of Sir *Douglas's entire approach.*

Of course, we have problems with speakers of his particular stamp. Our addiction to the exciting, combative style of discourse which television, and to a lesser extent radio, so obligingly serves, sometimes makes it rather difficult to see as trenchant criticism anything whose content of emotion and other noise falls below a certain rather lofty threshold. Yet the words "This could all be a lot better", spoken rather soft or set in 10-point type, may well refer to exactly the same set of *circumstances* as "Lecturer slams inefficency", either shouted or in banner headlines several inches high.

Sir Douglas has been delivering his lectures much more in the first of these two veins. From what I have gleaned, a number of his listeners may have found it all a bit below their trenchancy thresholds. Yet *if you ignore the low-key* delivery and pay attention to the content, then you may form quite a different impression.

In fact this has been a powerful set of lectures, drawing its strength equally from the speaker's formidable store of information and experience, his patent even-handedness and his lucidity of expression. In each lecture he has fixed on one or *more problems of government* – such as the tendency of cabinets to evade genuine policy discussion, the serious inadequacy of resources and support which always undermines a party in opposition and the failure of successive governments to face the fact of a better informed, less biddable electorate.

He has gone on to examine what else might be done, *rejecting many attactive alterna*tives on cogent arguments of impracticability. But he has left standing a number of interesting possibilities, including the permanent royal commission, which ought to be a lasting reproach to governments if they fail to explore them.

Indeed, in seeking more responsive and efficient government, Sir Douglas has done us all the service of identifying important areas in which it is neither, and while making plain the difficulties of doing better, he has left us in no doubt that better is both desirable and possible.

The final lecture can be heard again tomorrow (Radio 3) and there will be a discussion of the entire series on January 25 at 8.15pm (Radio 4), *not* next Wednesday as announced by continuity and in a recent *Radio Times.*

As a radio playwright, Jane Beeson has established a reputation as an acute, sensitive observer of human relationships. Her work presents a quiet, well-ordered surface, but we know from a phrase or a tone of voice that below the surface all is far from well. So it was in **The Deception of the Thrush** (Radio 4, December 5 and 11; director, Cherry Cookson).

Louise (Anna Nygh) goes off to New York leaving her much older cohab Bernard (Richard Pasco), and his 17-year-old daughter Claire (Phoebe Nicholls) to fend for themselves. But Claire has overheard a conversation between Louise and Bernard's younger business colleague Richard (Nicholas Farrell) which leads her – and us – to fear that Louise may use the trip as an opportunity to leave Bernard.

We listen through Claire's ears, sensitized by what she knows, and pick up many dubious signals from the adult world. Can Claire, as she would like, protect her father from what she thinks is going to happen? But it doesn't happen. Louise returns on schedule, brimming with affection. And are we wrong at this point to suspect the rebound from a rather nasty scene with Richard in New York and to wonder what the future holds?

If this was radio drama near its best, something of its worst can be heard in David Beaty's serial, **The Magic Carpet** (Radio 4, Sundays and Wednesdays; director, Brian Miller). Listening to this story of the R101 catastrophe, you may indeed wonder what decade we are in. I have not often heard dialogue, characterization and radio writing skills at such a low level since the mid 1960s nadir of *Afternoon Theatre.* The performances are made to match. But perhaps it is all quite appropriate for a drama about gasbags...

David Wade

THE TIMES DIARY

No trouble brewing

It is disappointing to learn that the England cricketers will not have to confess to hopeless alcohol addiction to obtain a foreigners' drinking permit when they visit the Islamic state of Pakistan in the New Year.

"That's rubbish", the inappropriately named spokesman for the Test and County Cricket Board, Peter Lush said.

In fact the lads are in for something of a treat. A man whose judgement in such matters can be relied on, told me: "Murree beer is a rather strong, and very tastly, larger. The Pakistanis grew it in Murree, in North-West Frontier Province, officially for export and for sale in tourist hotles. You can also buy it illegally, in places which also give you green cardamom to take the smell off your breath."

Vat VI IX

The same traveller swears that there is a brand of South American whisky which boasts on the label "Brewed in the cellars of Buckingham Palace by George VI himself"

Is the Woodcock Club the most exclusive in sport? To become a member, you must not only gun down two of these whirring game birds almost sim ultaneously, with a left and a right, but must also have two *independent* witnesses to the miracle. New members used to get a free bottle of cherry brandy after their first double slaying, but the liqueur company stopped that little number earlier in the year.

Tackled swiftly

There are about a dozen new rugby books in the shops at present,all the fruits of the usual protracted agonies. It takes a man like Andy Ripley to write a book in one afternoon. Ripley, that genial and eccentric telegraph pole,the Rosslyn Park and former England No8, wrote his book after lunch on a Thurday recently. It is full of his likes and dislikes, scraps of poetry and thoughts about the game.

Big Andy is cheerily convinced it will never be published. Our rugby correspondent, David Hands, Liked it, and said it was like *A Spaniard in the Works*, a book by a non-rugby player called John Lennon. "Its not as good as that", said Ripley.

Heresy

In India, the three great concerns of life are politics, religion and cricket. The boundaries between them have never been clearly defined. After India's debacle in the fifth Test against the West Indies at Calcutta, the matter was raised in Parliament, with Suresh Kalmadi calling for the resignation of Mr N. K. P. Salve as president of the Indian cricket board of control. Mr Salve, who is also Minister of State for Steel and Mines, has clearly been getting his priorities wrong.

BARRY FANTONI



"What you think Luigi – maybe it's witchcraft?"

Doc and Cop

Managers: I am afraid that associating Tommy Docherty with a vacant managerial job is hardly front page stuff. Still, the current speculation linking him with the vacancy at Stoke has the redeeming novelty of placing Steve Coppell as his number 2. Needless to say, perhaps, Coppell himself had not heard a thing about it all, but he thought it was a jolly good idea anyway.

Docherty, brash motivator, and Coppell, thoughtful graduate, have always got on well. Coppell wonders if their chalk and cheese natures might not be more like nitric acid and glycerine in partnership. So he'd like to work with the Doc in double harness? "I don't think anyone has ever managed to put Tommy Docherty in a harness."

Quote of the week: "It is strange, but I guess I could earn more money in amateur athletics than I do in pro football": Renaldo Nehamiah, wide receiver for San Francisco 49ers, and world record holder for high hurdles, banned from amateur athletics because of his "professionalism".

More managers: Final proof of the supremacy of the cult of manager comes in *Match* magazine. I spent much of my childhood scoring goals against the garage door when I was Roy of the Rovers, but *Match's* hero, Harry Cannon, is "boss of once great Stanton Town whose attempts to clear his name following the disgrace of a bribe scandal have touched a raw nerve with the underworld".

"Oh Lord," said Cannon, at the end of the last episode. "This whole damnable business has turned me into a murderer."

All grand stuff, but do the kids who read it spend their days sitting in imaginary dug-outs, shouting, pointing and chewing gum?

Footnote: "There is no crisis at Arsenal." Tommy Caton.

Simon Barnes

The Horse-traders' Handicap

by Julian Haviland

The struggle for the chairmanship of the Select Committee on Defence has entertained spectators at Westminster this week and some of the participants – cheerfully mopping their bleeding noses yesterday – enjoyed it too.

But beneath the rivalries a serious question was asked: and the answer given will not help Parliament's reputation. It is that backbench members are powerless to fill even important backbench posts with candidates of their choice if the Government is determined to prevent them.

On Thursday the Prime Minister, through the exertions of the Government Chief Whip Mr John Wakeham, succeeded in imposing on the Defence Committee, against the will of the majority of its members, the chairman of her choice, Sir Humphrey Atkins.

As a former Northern Ireland Secretary, in daily contact for two and a half years with senior figures in the armed services, Sir Humphrey has been more closely concerned with defence matters than his critics have allowed. He may prove more expert and less compliant than they expect.

But Mrs Thatcher, who had to, deploy all her powers of patronage to put Sir Humphrey in place, did not do so to strengthen a committee which may well ask awkward questions when the Treasury next raids the defence budget or when the costs of the Trident programme start to swell.

The new departmental select committees were created by the last Parliament as a shining weapon for MPs to use to prod ministers and Whitehall. But they expired at the election and there was a six-month delay before they were reconstituted this week.

There are signs that ministers and those who advise them think that the best time to hobble the committees is at the outset, by interfering with the chosing of members by the nominally independent Committee of Selection. Even then, an all-party committee may learn to embarrass ministers if a strong chairman, respected by all members, can make a team of them. So, better to fix the chairmanship too.

This time the fixing took some doing. At first the Committee of Selection, striving to meet its obligations to reflect the balance of parties in the House, nominated seven Conservatives and four Opposition MPs. Atkins was nobody's first choice. Two other Conservatives, Michael Mates and Michael Marshall, had backing in the Conservative group. Marshall was preferred by the three Labour men and the Social Democrat, who agreed to vote together.

The Opposition Chief Whip, Michael Cox, told that Atkins was the Downing Street favourite, tried to induce the Labour men to vote for him, but had dusty answers. Cox, exercising his own patronage, had his own candidates for the chairs of other select committees which, by agreement with Wakeham, were to go to Labour. But if he and his side let Wakeham down, the deal will be off.

Wakeham was active on another front. He sent an emissary to James Molyneux, leader of the Official Ulster Unionists, who was aggrieved that his party had no member on any committee. An understanding was reached that Conservative votes would be used to take the Social Democrat, John Cartwright, off the committee and put on the Ulster Unionist, Ken Maginnis, instead.

Maginnis does not admire Atkins but was expected to learn to do so quite quickly. These precautions proved unnecessary. The Conservatives solved their own problem in the end, and outsiders did not count. They decided to reach agreement inside the party caucus and, once *The Times* had revealed the goings-on, this course became imperative. From that moment Atkins could not lose. The squabble was to be kept in the family, and in the Conservative family, what mother says still counts.

But it was hard pounding. The four Tory Indians met to choose one of their three would-be chiefs. Two were for Atkins; one each for Mates and Marshall. Leaving Atkins aside, they tried again and split 2-2. The toss of a coin between Mates and Marshall was suggested but rejected. It was the only way Atkins could have been stopped. Mates and Marshall would neither drop out for Atkins nor join forces against him.

Late on Thursday night the whips worked again on Marshall and Mates in turn. They were plied with whisky and urged not to rock the boat. There was a promise that Atkins would go to the House of Lords as soon as the Prime Minister thought it safe to hold a by-election in his Spelthorne seat.

On Friday night all seven Conservatives were called to Wakeham's room and at last he prevailed, but on certain terms. Atkins would be chairman, but he promised to stand down after 18 months. Wakeham in turn had to promise that the next chairman will be chosen from the existing committee members, so that no new placeman is found from outside.

The Conservative Establishment, tough as it has proved, has not won the whole game. The Prime Minister's plan is that Atkins should also have a more senior post, the chairmanship of the Liaison Committee, which controls the Budget of the select committee and decides which estimates are debated in Parliament.

The author is Political Editor of The Times

David Hewson

Should we then ban News at Ten?

Parliament rarely looks its best when duty demands that it dictate what people see and hear. In evidence, I submit the following exchange, from the third sitting of the Standing Committee C on the Video Recordings Bill:

Mr Graham Bright (Luton, South): "There would be considerable scope for argument as to how far that [an amendment which would replace 'animal' with 'sentient being'] would extend down the animal kingdom, and even whether it would extend to plant life. I am advised, for example, that an amoeba might be considered to be sentient on the grounds that it would move away from noxious chemicals . . . Similarly . . . I am told that a plant will respond to the force of gravity: if it is turned upside down, the stem and roots will start to grow in the opposite direction".

Mr Robert Mclennan (Caithness and Sutherland): "Will the hon. gentleman explain why he thinks that exposure to the force of gravity could possibly be described as 'mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence'?"

Mr Bright: "There is an element of force that is unnatural if one turns a plant upside down."

And elsewhere.

Mr McLennan: "The second purpose of the amendment is to make it clear beyond doubt . . . that the exclusion is not intended to apply to violent acts of nature whose victims are *not* sentient beings. I shall cite two examples. I do not believe that a nature film showing *the eruption of Mount St Helens*, which is a violent act of nature, is the sort of thing that we wish to catch by the clause. The bulldozing of a high rise tower block may be described as an act of gross violence, but that is not likely to be caught by the clause. My amendment would preclude any doubt on that score."

Standing Committee C is not, so far as it can be ascertained, some elaborate joke being perpetrated by Mr Tom Stoppard, or a festive attempt at a Westminster pantomime.

Yet something very odd is clearly happening when a serious, and, in most quarters, welcome attempt to ban the video nasty suddenly turns into a debate on cruelty to amoebas and beastliness to plants. To gauge just how odd, let us consider some of the items which could be banned from videos on sale to the public if the Bill,. as now drafted, becomes law.

There would be no "mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence" between animals, consenting or otherwise. One presumes that this would not be communicated to the beasts of bush and jungle, but only to the film-makers who would no longer be permitted to document their behaviour until Leo turned vegetarian. While it would still be legal to hunt and kill a fox, the criminal law could be upon you were you to film the event and offer the result for sale to the general public. They could have watched the whole thing live, if you will pardon the expression, in the first place.

Naturally, if this discreet veil is to be drawn over the cruelty of animals to one another, it will also be extended to homo sapiens. Attractive as this may seem, there are one or two problems. The most important is that, whatever Standing Committee C may decree, human beings undoubtedly are cruel to one another on a regular basis, as any news bulletin shows.

On the present basis, anyone could be open to prosecution for taping a suitable edition of the television news, the content of which is controlled under different regulations, and then offering it for sale as a home video. ITN's video about the Falklands campaign, which depicts some horrifying wounds, might attract criminal prosecution for containing the very material which had been shown on peaktime television to millions.

Once one steps from fact to fiction, the banned list grows ever longer. What, for instance, would one make of the blinding of Gloucester or Oedipus? Who would ever again be allowed to dramatize our best example of "mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence", enacted on Good Friday?

This may not be the intention of most of those concerned with the Bill, but intentions do not always meet their mark. One of the great failings of a legalistic approach to deciding what is aesthetically good or bad is that it depends on the notion that such judgments can be made with the certainty of, say, charting the ocean.

As Mr Matthew Parris MP has pointed out to the committee: "If we were to try to remove from literature those things which might have a bad effect on immature and maladjusted adults, who knows where that might end? Many British people have seen bull fighting, and that is the main reason why it is so greatly disliked . . . the turning of the tide of American public opinion on the Vietnam war was when newsreel pctures were shown of little Vietnamese children running away from American soldiers with their backs on fire because of napalm. Showing people things can make them change their minds about them, not make them want to copy them.

"I do not say that people should be shown everything: there are some things which they should not see. But the committee should remember that merely because something is unpleasant and we do not believe it should happen is not sufficient reason for thinking it should not appear on video."

Or on television or the cinema screen, for that matter, for those are surely the next targets if a new and more restrictive code can find its way into the private home. A law to ban genuine video nasties will command popular support. One which attempts to define good taste, morally as well as legally, will fail. It may be an uncomfortable truth but the acceptable can only be defined in reverse; the unacceptable needs to exist and, on occasion, proclaim its existence to enable us to draw the line.

Demolishing the Thirties myth

Sir John Summerson, curator of John Soane's Museum, looks in vain for fine Thirties architecture

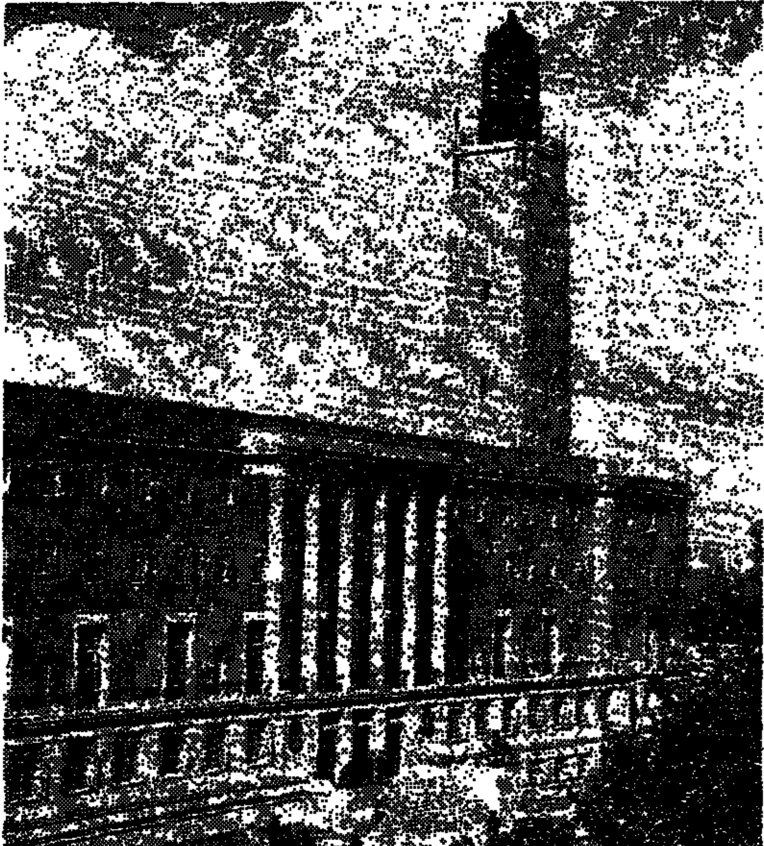
Now that I come to look calmly at the architecture of the 1930s, how does the decade strike me? I am sorry to say that it strikes me very much as it did then, and at the Thirties Exhibition at the Hayward Gallery a few years ago; as a decade lacking in vigour of invention or refinement of style.

Indeed it had no style. The Gothic of Scott and Classic of Lutyens and Curtis Green had their roots in the world of pre-1914. Perhaps the decorative quasi-modern style of Oliver Hill is as near as you get to anything coherently and intrinsically "Thirtyish".

Was there, among all the competitions for town halls, fire stations and other institutional paraphernalia one which can bear comparison with the competition winners of late Victorian and Edwardian days – Colcutt, Brydon, Aston Webb? I doubt it. Perhaps Norwich City Hall is an exception, or the RIBA building. I would hate to lose either of them, but they have that Scandinavian anaemia which disqualifies them from the front rank.

What was wrong with the Thirties? It was a period of *transition*, and was very self-conscious about this fact. "We live in an age of transition" was a recurrent cliché of after-dinner speeches. The clever answer to this was, of course, that all ages are ages of transition.

Two buildings come to mind which have lately attracted much attention, and which expose the schizophrenic fissions of the Thirties: Battersea Power Station and the Firestone factory. The power station is an engineering structure of some nobility, which has been artistically modelled by a cathedral architect. The factory is a commonplace industrial building tacked on to an Art Deco paraphrase of Burnet's British Museum.



Norwich City Hall: the best of an era?

The first is a case of misapplied skill – the wrong skill. The second a case of monumental architecture cynically deployed, skin deep, as an eye-catcher. Nobody in the Thirties would ever have believed that a later (but not very much later) generation would wish to preserve such muddle and mediocrity.

To me it is a great puzzle why people *do* want to preserve building such as these. There is evidently something about them which appeals deeply. Is it the very grimness of their Thirtyish humour? Do they bring out, as it were in caricature, the contradictions and neurosis of the time? Is the fascination they exercise a sort of voyeurism? I think that must be the answer, and I do not know what to make of it.

I would not shed a tear for Battersea Power Station. I suppose it is a fine brick mass, but those four belching columns at the four corners, pulling it apart, as it were, are to me really painful. Archer tried this game at St John's in Smith Square. It didn't work, and the church came to be called Queen Anne's footstool. It works even less at Battersea – Gavin Stamp's billiard table.

I suppose this may be dismissed as a "subjective judgement". As a product of its time – at no other time could such a thing possibly have been erected. Battersea Power Station is, or course, interesting. So, for that matter, are the Firestone factory and the Granada Cinema at Tooting. I despised them all when I was on the *Architect and Building News*, but I can't deny that they represent significant facets of the Thirties world.

If to bring lost worlds into focus is the purpose of preservation, then to preserve these things is perhaps right. If it is to preserve funny old things just for the hell of it, and for the entertainment of all and sundry, there is perhaps an even more complete logical justification. The test is: "Are they funny enough?" (another case of "subjective judgement").

The detachment of a decade for special adulation is a curious modern habit which started, I suppose, with Holbrook Jackson's book of 1913 on the 1890s. The nineties really *had* got something: not only Wilde, Max Beerbohm, the Beggarstaff brothers, Beardsley and the Yellow Book; they had the young Lutyens and C. R. Mackintosh. In other fields, of course, the Thirties had Moore, Nicholson, Hepworth, Auden, Betjeman. But in architecture, who? The question is embarrassing.

I wrote an introduction for Trevor Dannatt's *Modern Architecture in Britain*, published in 1959.. The first sentence reads: "It seems natural, writing about the past 30 years of English architecture, to write as if the only things worth bothering about were the local initiation, progress and achievements of the "modern movement".

Look at the pictures in Dannatt's book – all those concrete and glass rectangles assembled, divided and subdivided, recessed and modulation, with more invention and variety than you would think possible – they do constitute a rather monumental performance. The pent-up energies of the war years were released and the Fifties was the decade of the British modern: something really arrived. Now it is in the shadows, but one of these days a Fifties Society will be called for.

A shortened version of a lecture given to the Thirties Society this week.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Once upon a time it was the artist who suffered – now it's us

If Antón Webern were alive today (which thank the Lord he's not, sir) he would be 100; set off by the centenary, his music has been raging through Europe like influenza, and many of the victims have developed hideous secondary symptoms in the form of Berg, Stockhausen and even Varese. Prognosis in most cases is grave, and where Boulez and Schoenberg have set in, little hope can remain: at the Barbican on Tuesday, for instance, the Vienna Philharmonic under Mehta were unable to fill the hall, despite the fact that the second *half* of the concert consisted of the Schubert C major Symphony (a marvellously sonorous and exciting performance, *incidentally*), because the first half was devoted entirely to Webern. (The one thing that can be said in favour of Webern is that his works are mercifully short; each of the *Five Orchestral Pieces*, for instance, consists of not much more than three plinks and a plonk, and even the *Six Orchestral Pieces*, which figured in Tuesday's programme and are massive structures by comparison, were all over in less than 10 minutes the lot, with an average for each item of five plinks, two plonks and a grrrrr.)

We can, I think, safely take it that no man in his senses wants to listen to this stuff or enjoys it when he does so; some think they *ought* to listen to it, but even the writer of Tuesday's programme-notes (". . . shook off the last trappings of tonality . . . skeletal thematicism- . . . revolutionary compression . . . steadily accelerating to a catastrophic disintegration . . .", made it sound as though the First Principle of Medicine – the nastier it tastes the more good it is doing you – was being applied. So what was it doing up front in the concert, making us wait three-quarters of an hour for Schubert?

Mark, I do not suggest that Webern was a charlatan, let alone that Schoenberg and Berg were: indeed, I do not think that even Stockhausen is having us on. They make these horrible noises because they feel like it, not to impress Mr Hans Keller, and it is no more an answer to say that the hall would have been *entirely* empty without the Schubert in the bill than it is an equal and opposite answer to say that Berio must be a genius because at the first performance of Beethoven's Third Symphony somebody in the audience shouted "I'd give another *kreutzer* if the thing would stop". This subject is a minefield sown with undistributed middles, and great care must be taken while travelling through it.

All the same, these people *do* make horrible noises, and nobody enjoys listening to them. What has happened?

First, steadily growing throughout our era, is the belief that art is not something to be enjoyed, but something through which we are to suffer. But that is not true. Certainly tastes differ, and the fact that I would not give fourpence a square yard for the entire works of Francis Bacon does not affect his prices; all the same, I have never seen, in any gallery showing his pictures, any expression on the faces of those looking at them other than revulsion and rejection, and neither have you.

The defenders of the Sacher-Masoch Theory of Art will say that we live in an ugly world, full of moral and political dissonance and distortion, and that it is the artist's duty to reflect that world; whence not only the nasty noises, the hideous paintings and the New Nihilism of the "committed" playwrights, but also such lunacy as action painting and aleatoric music. What these people forget is that the world has always been ugly, cruel and capricious, yet only in very recent times has art begun to insist that those qualities were the most significant and that art must take on their nature.

Why is random art – paint flung from radio atmospherics, novels published loose-leaved, to be shuffled before reading – such nonsense? Do you suppose that Shakespeare didn't know that the world could fly apart at any moment, and that the Wars of the Roses had ended only 80 years before he was born? Do you imagine that Rembrandt, because he lived in Holland, had never heard of the Massacre of St Bartholomew, only 34 years before *he* was born? Do you think that Bach would have enjoyed himself if Charles XII had come to tea? Do you believe that Dostoievsky thought life was a bowl of cherries? Of course such artists knew that they had to assimilate suffering and refine it into their art, that they had to face ugliness before they could conceive beauty, that the ice of the world is eternally thin, and will always creak and groan and roar in travail as the artist tiptoes his way across it.

But that is why art is centripetal, and the artist's duty to keep it so. Art is the integument that binds humankind, truth and beauty together, and it is able to serve that purpose because, and only because, it can keep simultaneously in view the lesser truth that the world can fall to pieces at any moment and the greater truth that it will not.

The ugliness, and – much more significant – the triviality, of so much of modern art is a reflection of the fact that so many artists have ceased to be capable of that dual vision, and that some deny that the duality exists at all, or even maintain that the only truth about the universe is that it is charged and primed with disintegration. (What was it that led to the present danger of nuclear annihilation if not the splitting of the atom, that ultimate, hideous, unforgivable impiety of putting asunder that which God had joined together?).

This is the mistake of the false prophets, who strive ceaselessly (but, happily, in vain) to lead the common people astray. I am myself one of the common people, and it is on their behalf and at their unanimous request that I am speaking today, just as on Tuesday night I acted as their representative when, while listening to the Webern, I made a face as of one who has just swallowed a quince, and waited patiently until Schubert arrived with his great hymn to wholeness – a wholeness so complete that it can even encompass fragmentation, just as the Fifth Symphony of Beethoven is a hymn to the light so overwhelming that it even contains darkness.

Atonality was the great barrier reef on which modern music shattered, as the stream-of-consciousness was the torpedo that sank the novel and abstraction the anaesthetic that put painting to sleep. But these things are not just techniques; they are a direct consequence of the sickness in the artist's soul, a sickness which denies the duty which he previously shouldered uncomplainingly from Giotto to Picasso, from Monteverdi to Britten, from Rabelais (or Homer if you like) to Thomas Mann, from Aeschylus to Chekhov. All life, and therefore all art, strives towards harmony. Why does a playwright like Stoppard, a novelist like Naipaul, a painter like Matta, stand out so tremendously today? Because artists like these do know the artist's duty: to face the void without flinching, to declare that the world will yet be saved, and to weave their single strand of the great rope – made of form and meaning equally – that holds the universe together. And I know this: another century hence, no one will think of celebrating Webern's bicentenary, because he will be utterly forgotten. But the C major Symphony of Schubert will still be as fresh, as glorious, and as true as ever.

Roy Strong

The taste that begins with laying the table

Christmas is one of those occasions when even the most run-of-the-mill households pause and attempt to essay one of the arts of living, table-laying. Recently Lady Clark told me how, when she was busy in the kitchen preparing lunch, her husband would go out into the garden in search of the "bouquet" for the table. 'Please remember *not* to pick those two irises," she would ask, but he always did, reflecting exactly his appreciation of the aesthetic of the table.

There is a marvellous museum in Stockholm which exhibits the history of table-laying. Down a darkened corridor the visitor goes past room after room laid in period style, one a ladies' dinner held in a bedroom by a roaring fire, as in the engraving by Ambraham Bosse, another evoking the naughtiness of the *ancien regime* with Sèvres porcelain arranged for a meal *à deux* at a table whose cloth trails to the ground, knotted at the corners. What art the consumption of food has evoked – but always mosaic pieces to be rearranged and reset to capture mood and ambience, from banquet to buffet.

My recollections of memorable tables would form an eccentric list. It would not be particularly governed by splendour at all. It would include a humble lunch of cold meat and salad with Duncan Grant at Charleston. The painted wood table, the pottery, even the food was pure Omega workshops. John Piper's honest scrubbed wood table at Fawley matches it in another way, for from the centre arises a bank of white pottery candlesticks, all sorts and sizes, with cascades of dripping white wax.

Artists' tables are always interesting as they naturally approach them as a form of still life.

No reminiscence of memorable tables can exclude grand ones however. So many of these are a let-down. A ton of antique silver is not necessarily beautiful. The Royal Academy dinner is positively municipal when it ought to be a visual feast. To it might be applied a remark made to my wife, a short time ago at another grand table. Looking at the explosion of "all-the-year-round chrysanthemums" in the middle, her neighbour commented: "I assume that these will be sent to Golders Green immediately after."

A state banquet at Buckingham Palace provides one of the last glimpses of table-laying in the grand manner. The menu lists the glorious porcelain from which the guests eat, and little cards reveal the antiquity of the vista of candelabra and epergnes that stretch in each direction. On that occasion cascades of *alchemilla mollis* revealed the delicate restraint of whoever orchestrated this spectacle. How different magnificence and complementarity to a luncheon by an American millionaire, where the museum accession numbers on the plates were noticeable. Nothing like eating off your tax concessions.

Eating is a wonderful vehicle for looking and not only at flowers and artefacts from the past. Modern ceramic sculpture produces delightful pieces to enliven a table. Bryan Newman's evocation of old London Bridge and John Gandy's garden wall topped by urns and peacocks have given me endless pleasure. One of the sad aspects of the dining table at 10 Downing Street is the total absence of any contemporary ceramics or silver. There table-laying ought to be celebration of this country's past and present creativity.

The most memorable table I ever had to arrange was a luncheon party for the Queen Mother at Ham House. The table was placed as it would have been in Catherine of Braganza's bedroom, with the Royal visitor sitting so that the garden's lines of perspective met in her eyes. I regret to say that a colleague's bed was despoiled of its lace counterpane, and statuettes of the seasons were ferried down from the V & A, for the occasion.

In contrast the most memorable visual surprise I ever had laid before me was by Lord Eccles, who had commissioned Vanessa Bell to decorate a dessert service with scenes from Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. He saw that I was served with the "Elizabethan lady", and my wife with "the man in the large black hat". Such is the stage-management of table-laying. It is above all an exercise in the art of looking, and a means whereby even the humblest meal is made unforgettable.

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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REHABILITATE, NOT DECAPITATE

A glimpse has now been offered of the arguments Mr Patrick Jenkin is using privately to secure for his rate capping Bill, due out next week, a better parliamentary reception than it deserves. They are, to do him justice, the same arguments as he has used publicly, with the added admission that the Government's chopped and changed financial relationship with local authorities has arrived at a condition of impenetrable chaos. Something has to be done. The something proposed is a giant stride towards central direction. Never, it appears, has Whitehall *known better*.

Mr Jenkin's first argument is that Britain is a unitary state. Local authorities are the creatures of Parliament, enjoying a merely statutory existence. Therefore there is no objection in principle to the central dictation of the details of local expenditure and revenue raising. The premises are correct and the conclusion wrong.

This is a unitary state and councils are subordinate authorities, subject to statute. Parliament is fully entitled to do what it likes with them up to and including abolition. But it remains the case that to extinguish the discretion local authorities have historically possessed in determining their rate call and so varying their expenditure is to make a far-reaching change in the customary arrangements of government; and to that objection in principle may very well be taken.

Mr Jenkin's second argument is that government must be able to rely on the cooperation of local authorities in the realization of its economic and social objectives. If the cooperation is not forthcoming voluntarily it must be enforced. The proposition, broadly stated and subject to toleration of a reasonable amount of local variation, is incontestable. What is contested is the Government's claim that the "overspending" by councils, as Whitehall defines it, is actually putting major policy objectives at risk, when every penny of the extra expenditure is matched by extra yield from rates. The impediment to the execution of Government policies from that cause is not so great as to warrant a drastic diminution of the status of local government.

Mr Jenkin's third argument is that the proportion of rate income in the total income of local authorities, and the proportion of the sum paid in rates by domestic ratepayers in comparison with the sum paid by business and other non-voting ratepayers, and the proportion of domestic ratepayers who pay full rates in comparison with those who are subsidized or rebated, are all so low that the supposed financial accountability of councils to their electors is a nullity. He can point to the huge rate increases imposed by runaway socialist councils in inner cities at a time of falling inflation. And it is convenient for Mr Jenkin, if not contrived, that the grant support juggling for the coming year pretty well guarantees that these same councils will remain true to form.

It is indeed scandalous that successive governments have allowed the financial and electoral framework of local government to deteriorate so far that in many places only the most tenuous local accountability remains. But whatever it is that drives Mr Jenkin to set about reform in the way he has, it is not conservative instinct. Local government needs putting back on its feet and he offers it the *coup de grâce*. Its electoral roots and financial base need patient and detailed reconstruction, and he offers substitution by Whitehall, swollen and winded by a mass of local intricacy that it is quite unfitted to digest.

When Parliament receives the measure it should grant a selective power of rate capping, provided the criteria are objectively defined; for things have got so bad that many ratepayers now have a right to that protection. It should refuse to grant general reserve powers if they are sought. There is no necessity for them. They are a lazy substitute for the rehabilitation of local government proper.

CAVEAT TALPA

The first impulse of journalists over the affair of the Ministry of Defence leak is of respect and fellow-feeling towards *The Guardian*. If the secret memorandum about the arrival of cruise missiles in Britain had fallen into our hands instead of theirs, we would have used the information therein. Disclosure of items of public interest, is the business of the press, subject to the overriding requirements of justice and national security. It is agreed that the latter was not directly threatened by the information in the leaked paper. If challenged to disclose the identity of the source of a confidential report, the instinct and usually the duty of a journalist is to say nothing and take the consequences, which may in the last resort include imprisonment for contempt. *The Guardian* clearly acted from the best of motives and from an exacting view of the duty of the media. But in the circumstances of this case, it seems to us that the decision (which proves to have been an expensive one) was mistaken.

The hearing was a test case for a clause in the Contempt of Court Act 1981 which gave statutory force to a longstanding convention that journalists should not normally be required to disclose their sources unwillingly. This convention had been overthrown by the House of Lords in a case where British Steel had demanded that Granada TV should say who had given it information, used in a broadcast, which cast a decidedly unflattering light on the company's management. Even when required to by the Lords, Granada rightly refused to expose its informant to dismissal and possible action for damages. BSC eventually dropped its demand. The new law took away the right of courts to require disclosure in such cases; only "the interests of justice or national security or . . . the prevention of disorder or crime" could justify an order to disclose.

The document itself let fall no secrets likely to be of assistance to enemies of the state, but its circulation within the Ministry was very restricted, and the leak implies that one of a small number of individuals with access to exceedingly sensitive material was prepared to commit a breach of trust. It was reasonable for the Appeal Court to find that this had significant implications for national security, that it was the threat of a threat.

The press thrives on notional breaches of trust by its informants, while regarding itself as bound to commit no breaches of trust against them. Many confidences pass every day between the press and people in business or government, and it is very much in the public interest that they should. Ministers are among the readiest to take advantage of these informal contacts, which depend on the maintenance of trust. But the information received by *The Guardian* was in the distinct though growing category of material sent anonymously. The recipient's obligations towards an informant who does not trust him with his identity can hardly be of the same kind as those in a genuine confidential relationship. No explicit or implicit contract exists, and it is almost quixotic to act as if it did.

In the normal way, the recipient would not even be in a position to unmask his informant – if he is, it is only by his informant's oversight. But on this occasion the Ministry hopes that the leaked photocopy may reproduce marks identifying which original copy it was taken from. A photocopy of copyright information is technically the property of the copyright holder, and so the High Court felt obliged to order its return, unmutilated, regardless of the terms of the 1981 Act. Surreptitious leakers will no doubt take account of the implications of this in future, and the flow of unsigned communications to Fleet Street is likely to be channelled into re-typed copies. The protection to confidential journalism embodied in the 1981 Act remains substantially unaffected. If it proves to be inadequate when tested, then the legitimate functions of the media, and the services that they can render to society, would be gravely impaired. But we can cross that bridge if we come to it. Meanwhile, let the mole beware.

CHARITABLE GIVING AND TAKING

New figures from the National Council for Voluntary Organizations show a noteworthy increase in the subventions from central government to voluntary and charitable bodies in the four years since Mrs Thatcher took office. Large sums are also paid by the Manpower Services Commission, the Housing Corporation and by local government; taken together, the state has come to underwrite a large proportion of the work of the voluntary sector. The dependence of ostensibly private social service on public benefaction invites closer inspection than the voluntary movement has yet received from either public or Parliament.

The rate of growth of grant-giving by certain ministries – Urban Programme grants from the Department of the Environment have increased in value by nearly 300 per cent in four years – has been too rapid to allow anything but the most cursory assessment of value for the public money spent. Some departments have favourites; money undoubtedly goes to charitable bodies with an avowedly political intent (such as the Child Poverty Action Group) and to organizations at cross-purposes with the government's social policy. Of course, such pluralism is a welcome index of political maturity; but there is also a case for pruning the ever-lengthening list of interest groups knocking, apparently successfully, on Whitehall doors.

More worrying is the fact that public money is dispersed not only to the worthy charities devoted to the care of the elderly, children, and the handicapped, but also to organizations (for example many housing associations, and most groups with that weasel word "community" in their titles) staffed by welfare state professionals who differ from their counterparts in the state's employ only in name and accountability. Grant-giving by "maximalist" Labour city councils has rocketed, creating a stage army fully unionized and militant "volunteers" catering to the fashionable whims of sex and race.

Meanwhile, the British give money gifts to charity on a scale far surpassing Continental Europeans or other Westerners, save only the Americans, who are more generous, individually and corporately. The British give time, too, to all manner of useful organizations, which include both the blessed ladies of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and the – less tweedy perhaps – women who help run play groups in inner city areas; both the heroes of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and unknown numbers who give up a few hours to visit the elderly.

In this mixed economy of the voluntary sector, there is a considerable role for public money to prime pumps, get groups started, provide secretarial assistance, ensure continuity in a group's life. It would be naive to imagine voluntary action could ever be entirely private, however admirable are those examples, such as the hospice movement, of initiatives in social service completely independent of the state. There is, of course, an important distinction between grants of public money and concessions by the state on tax revenue. Charities enjoy tax and rating privileges; givers get some relief.

Four years ago there was ambitious talk by ministers about the voluntary sector being stimulated in order to cover the withdrawal of the state from expensive areas of social service. In fact, the welfare state has, since, hardly shrunk. The hefty increase in state support for voluntary bodies has underpinned their taking on new, additional social work. All around, expectations have yet to be diminished. But the case for reform of the welfare state must rest on its own merits; to introduce the voluntary sector as some kind of safety net is to misunderstand its nature.

Inevitably, because it relies on individuals and their enthusiasms, voluntary social service is patchy, non-uniform; there is always an element of chance. Volunteers may do a good job caring for the elderly in one district; in another, Age Concern and similar groups find it difficult to mobilize. To rely on voluntary action to provide the basic social services would quickly present issues of unequal access and territorial injustice. It would also harm the very spirit of voluntarism, which is an expression of social solidarity, of time and money given freely, not at the behest of government policy. Voluntary groups that have been primed with tax-collected funds should escape neither the scrutiny of public accountants nor the oversight of ministers, but they should not become the creatures of government or municipal policies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accounting for the Commonwealth

From Professor Mike Faber

Sir, Others must also be wondering what induced you in your leader ("Called to account", December 2) to turn such heavy artillery of insinuation and innuendo against the Commonwealth Secretariat.

You claim that senior appointments " . . . owe little to competitive selection procedures which normally ensure that some meritocratic element resides at the tip of a public service." The Secretary General and the two Deputy Secretaries General are in fact appointed directly by member governments – if necessary through a process of election.

The Deputy Secretary General (Economic) was nominated by the present British Government, having previously been HM representative to the UN organisations in Geneva. The Deputy Secretary General (Political) has recently been recalled by the President of Nigeria to become Foreign Minister. That hardly suggests lack of merit.

As to your idea that the post of secretary general can be "deftly protected" by its holder "through the exercise of judicious patronage" anybody familiar with the procedure by which a secretary general is (or is not) reappointed knows that to be ridiculous. The truth of the matter is that, while not every Commonwealth government approves of everything the present Secretary General says or does, all recognize that a large majority do approve of the general way he tackles the job and wish him to continue doing it.

You also assert that "there is no real evidence of proper accountability".

A 1981 review group – external to the secretariat – advised upon the secretariat's objectives and priorities for the 1980s. This was followed by a review, again external, of the secretariat's management structure and establishment. The recommendations went to and were approved by a meeting of senior Commonwealth officials.

For their financial management, both the secretariat (1983-84 Budget £5.6m; British contribution, £1.4m) and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (1983-84 Budget, £19,9m; British contribution, £5.5m) are fully accountable to bodies which meet regularly and are composed of representatives appointed by Commonwealth governments. All accounts are audited by the UK Exchequer and Audit Department.

The secretariat is a bureaucracy certainly, albeit a small one, and doubtless no bureaucracy is perfect. Its staff, drawn from some thirty Commonwealth countries, seek no more than to be judged by their collective performance.

On that score, the "real evidence" is that member governments are generally well satisfied, and indeed recognize that the Commonwealth association is fortunate to be served by a number of men and women of outstanding talent and dedication.

I am, etc,
MIKE FABER, Director,
Institute of Development Studies,
University of Sussex,
Brighton,
Sussex.
December 7.

Public relations in aid of Government

From Mr John Andrew

Sir, David Burnside's article on the Conservative Government's need for public relations (December 9) makes sombre reading except as preparation for Orwell's projection for 1984.

His argument is bleak in its simplicity: since truth is an attribute of statement, let the Government so control and unify its statements as to ensure that the views of individual ministers are suppressed in order that the media may be fed with centrally manipulated and homogenised "truths". Thus we move closer to the classic recipe for the total society.

It is cold comfort to learn that the author is public relations director to the Institute of Directors.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
JOHN ANDREW,
10 Elm Court,
Elmdon,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

From the Chairman-elect of the Public Relations Consultants Association

Sir, Whilst not disagreeing with David Burnside's scepticism (feature, December 9) about the likely effectiveness of the latest Government moves to improve their public relations, frankly he only skirts the central problem indicated by his title "Call in the professionals".

This Government's declared policy of encouraging private enterprise skills in the areas of state activity has made scarcely a dent on Whitehall's communicators. In contrast to the pattern throughout Western Europe, very few outsider PR consultancies are used for government work.

This is a deliberate act of policy by the Civil Service, based on an obscure Cabinet minute from the Wilson administration of the late 1960s. Its aim has been to propose, falsely in our opinion for the majority of cases, that state security calls for such sensitive work to be carried out exclusively from within.

The outcome would not be as sad if government PR people themselves had a wider knowledge of the outside commercial world. Again looking abroad, and especially to the United States, one sees much more career interchange between civil servant communicators and the private sector – two-way traffic to the benefit of all. Not so in Britain.

Resistance to all offers of outside help reached its absurd peak at the time of the Falklands campaign. Our chairman offered voluntary assistance and advice on presentation of the conflict by top people in the consultancies. The then head of the Central Office of Information refused it in the most blunt terms.

Subsequent House of Commons inquiry has shown how pathetic were key aspects of public communication during this campaign. If you exclude some of the top people in their profession, this is what you must expect.

Yours etc,
DOUGLAS SMITH,
Chairman-elect,
Public Relations Consultants Association,
37 Cadogan Street,
Sloane Square, SW3.
December 12.

Disposal of rail archive

From Dr P. W. Lewis

Sir, What principles determine the continuing disposal of our national railway archive by British Railways Board (BRB)?

Despite the recent excellent publication of *The Railway Heritage of Britain*, which might be taken to indicate that the board has changed its attitude since the regrettable sale of material from Euston in 1969, a recent internal advertisement for someone to supervise the "correct and profitable disposal" of the board's extensive collection of material at Paddington, which includes a collection of original Brunel drawings, makes me suspect that there has been no such change.

If items by Brunel can be disposed of in such a cavalier fashion there seems little chance that the more mundane material will be treated with a proper respect for its archival value.

It is time the following questions were met publicly. Does BRB have any coherent policy for the disposal of its railway archive? Does BRB have any policy for the maintenance and conservation of the railway record that remains in its care? What control is exercised over those parts of the railway record, such as the glass negatives from Paddington, which have already become the responsibility of outside bodies?

Can BRB assure us that it intends to establish a working party, including competent outside experts, to advise on all items in an impartial and informed way before any decision is made to dispose of or destroy historical documents?

Yours faithfully,
P. W. LEWIS,
Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Department of Geography,
7-15 Gresse Street, W1.

India and slavery

From Mr M. Dubey

Sir, In an article entitled "Crisis time ahead for UN slavery group" by Caroline Moorehead (November 2) it has been alleged that India is among the countries "believed to be hostile to the Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities"; that it has had a dispute with that group and that it has worked in the UN Committee on Programme and Coordination to seek the disbandment of the group.

I am writing categorically to deny these allegations. India has consistently valued the role and existence of the working group. We do not accept false and distorted charges levelled against us in the working group and seek every opportunity to state the correct facts. However, we have had no problems whatsoever with the working group itself.

In the Committee on Programme and Coordination (CPC) the Indian delegation neither criticised the working group nor proposed its disbandment. This is clearly borne out by the report of the CPC. On the contrary, in the fifth committee of the UN General Assembly the Indian delegation took the lead in successfully restoring the programme element for the working group.

Yours faithfully,
M. DUBEY, Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Offices,
9 Rue du Valais,
1202 Geneva,
Switzerland.
December 6.

Irish unity

From Mr John D. Taylor, MEP for Northern Ireland (Ulster Unionist) and MP for Strangford (Official Unionist)

Sir, I was more than surprised to read the heading, "European MP calls for Irish unity", to your reference on December 13 to the Haagerup report on Northern Ireland to the European Parliament. In fact, Mr Niels Haagerup, Danish MEP, dismissed Irish unity as being an impossibility as far as he could see into the future.

He stated that the support for Irish unity by Dublin political parties was also fading; that Irish unity would present massive economic burdens which neither the EEC nor the USA would be prepared to finance; and that Irish unity would create a civil war situation which would require a major security operation, and that it was unrealistic for Dublin to expect that the EEC, USA or the UN would provide the necessary peace-keeping force.

No, Mr Haagerup did not recommend a united Ireland – instead he supported the more realistic approach of an agreed devolved government and administration for Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom. Whilst the exact structure for devolution is still not agreed, nonetheless three of Ulster's four main political parties already concur with Mr Haagerup's independent conclusion that devolution is the best way forward.

Let us hope that Dublin will now influence the fourth party, the SDLP, in favour of an internal settlement within Northern Ireland, as Mr Haagerup recommends.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. TAYLOR,
House of Commons.
December 13.

Peace in our time?

From Mr Graham Greene, CH

Sir, What short memories politicians have. Mr Heseltine says that it is because we retain our deterrent that "we have lived in peace for the longest period of contemporary history." Surely it is nearer the truth to say that the longest period of peace (even then only relative peace) was between 1918 and 1939, before there was any question of the deterrent.

Since 1945 – to name a few – there have been the Korean war, the French war in Vietnam, the American war in Vietnam, war in Malaya, war in Kenya, war in Angola, war in Nigeria, war in Ethiopia, war in Nicaragua and El Salvador, war in Chad, war in Israel, war in Lebanon.

Surely it can be argued that without the nuclear deterrent, which has sometimes deterred the two great powers from intervening with sufficient strength to keep the peace, there would have been far fewer wars.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM GREENE,
06600 Antibes,
France.
December 12.

The consumer case

From the Chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Council

Sir, May I comment on Mr Alex Henney's statement about this council in his letter in today's *Times* (December 14)?

Mr Henney's account of our meetings would probably have been more accurate if he had been present *for all of the discussions he refers to.* He mentioned, for example, that the ECC (Electricity Consumers' Council) is declining to press the CEGB in a forthright manner for information to which it is legally entitled. In fact, Mr Henney left our meeting before the discussion on this question had been completed and even before the vote on a resolution he had put before the council had been taken.

While the council did not vote in favour of Mr Henney's particular formula, it will be pressing the industry for greater disclosure of information. The whole purpose of our discussion was to decide how best to press our case.

It is also misleading to state, as he does, that this council is more concerned to get on with the *industry than to get on with its job.* The ECC is currently raising a whole series of criticisms of the CEGB's case for Sizewell B through the Sizewell public inquiry and is pressing the industry on its policies on standing charges, on security deposits and on shops and showrooms.

The ECC has also been in the forefront of the argument that an increase in the price of electricity is not necessary at the present time. Pressing the consumer case on these issues is our prime concern.

However, in the case of our work on electricity prices, the industry also appears keen to resist pressures for a price increase at the present time. Getting on with the industry on this issue, would have meant stable electricity prices for a period of over two and a half years, had it not been for Government intervention.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BARNES, Chairman,
Electricity Consumers' Council,
Brook House,
2/16 Torrington Place, WC1.
December 14.

Blaming the computer

From Mr B. H. Parker

Sir, What is it about computers that encourages people to make irrational statements about them? Your headline, "Computer error blamed in Korean jet disaster" (December 9), is an example. The underlying text reported that the unfortunate pilots probably inserted wrong data into their navigational computer.

You call this a computer error. By the same token, midshipmen at this college who make a hash of coming alongside will be able to report "rudder failure" and those who put themselves on the mud can blame "chart error".

Yours etc,
BRIAN PARKER,
Britannia Royal Naval College,
Dartmouth,
Devon.
December 10.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr Donald Ellison

Sir, Ms Stern, writing (December 8) as Director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, unjustly dismisses as "simply nonsense" what must surely be a valid and important point made by Baroness Phillips (November 24), writing as Director of the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops.

Ms Stern's reasoning is quite as muddled as the shoppers who, according to her, "remove goods without a clear intention to steal". Such "muddled shoppers", says Ms Stern, must be distinguished from "deliberate shoplifters".

This raises the question, who is to make that distinction? At present, the task is entrusted to the courts. If they discharge that task properly they hear the relevant evidence and from it infer the intention with which the goods were removed.

If a clear intention to steal is inferred the charge is held to be proved; if the intention is unclear, the charge is dismissed. How else can justice be done between accuser and accused? Where better than in the courts to see it done? Ms Stern does not suggest an answer to these questions.

Yours etc,
DONALD ELLISON,
27 Wheatsheaf Wharf,
Wheatsheaf Lane, SW6.
December 12.

Threat in El Salvador

From Mr Jack Shapiro

Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's letter (December 12) detailing his experiences in El Salvador does not include the points made by your own correspondent today. It may be true that the people of El Salvador do not want "to be ruled by Communists" but they certainly do not want the present situation in which your correspondent reports "that up to 40,000 civilians have been killed by the security forces and by death squads in the past four years".

US Vice-President Bush is perhaps a more reliable observer and his comments, notably absent from Sir Alfred Sherman's letter, indicate that even the Reagan Government are not happy with the El Salvador Government's brand of democracy.

The virulent confrontation of every situation in the context that whatever is anti-communist must be good for the democracies is a particularly pernicious doctrine that even Mrs Thatcher appears unable to swallow.

Yours faithfully,
JACK SHAPIRO,
100 Brim Hill, N2.
December 12.

Uneminent and trivial

From Mr Kingsley Amis

Sir, Well, if you print a whole article where somebody complains about something somebody else might have said on a television programme, you will have to put up with a corrective letter on the matter.

My objection to Philip Oakes's autobiography (feature, December 10) was and is not merely that he is not eminent. It was and is that he is not eminent and also has nothing to tell us that is not trivial and dull.

Many people enjoy trivia about the famous or infamous, Sir Winston Churchill's waistcoats, Hiter's favourite lunch. And many, *too*, want to be *told* about the remarkable adventures, heroic, comic or scandalous, of otherwise remarkable and uneminent persons.

But when an uneminent man like Oakes writes a book about things like the dance he perhaps went to in 1949, forgive me if I prefer to chat to my minicab driver.

Yours faithfully,
KINGSLEY AMIS,
c/o Jonathan Clowes Ltd,
22 Prince Albert Road, NW1.
December 12.

CND's political bias

From Dr J. M. Lewis

Sir, Your leader (December 5) is mistaken in claiming that "at its conference last year CND decided not to advocate Britain's departure from Nato". CND is committed by its own constitution (section A) to "the unilateral abondonment by Britain of . . . nuclear alliances", and *the only point at issue is one of* tactics – namely, how prominently to proclaim this neutralist commitment at any given time.

At the November, 1982, CND conference militantly anti-Nato delegates succeeded in defeating a CND leadership attempt to water down a resolution calling for much greater emphasis on withdrawal from the Atlantic Alliance. With the general election looming, however, the CND leaders chose to ignore the conference decision and to sweep the question of neutralism under the carpet.

You are quite correct, however, to challenge CND claims of non-partisanship. Last year's political complexion of what you term to be "clearly a left-wing front" was mild compared to the new team of 26 officers and national council members just elected at Sheffield.

Of the 20 whose political affiliations are known to this organisation, every one is a committed socialist, communist or Labour Party member. This includes all six national officers, two of whom have been involved in one or more of the following recognised Soviet-front organisations within the recent past: the British Peace Assembly, the World Federation of Scientific Workers and the World Peace Council, all of which formerly graced the Labour Party's list of proscribed organisations until it was abolished with dire consequences in 1973.

The actual breakdown is: (a) officers – five Labour Party (including one ex-Communist candidate) and one "Socialist Feminist"; (b) ordinary members of national council – four Communist Party (including a leading member of the British-Soviet Friendship Society); nine Labour Party (including two defeated left-wing MPs); one left-wing "socialist"; and six whose affiliations are unclear.

The differences between this accurate analysis and the "witch hunt" it will undoubtedly be denounced as is that witches were non-existent entities whereas leftist activists in key "peace" movement positions are regrettably all too real.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN LEWIS, Research Director,
The Coalition for Peace through Security,
27/31 Whitehall, SW1.
December 5.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: By command of The Queen, the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the arrival of The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and welcomed His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Prince of Wales this morning at Kensington Palace received the Hon S Joyal (Secretary of State, Canada).

His Royal Highness later received His Excellency the Hon Sir Victor Garland (High Commissioner for Australia) and Lady Garland.

The Duke of Kent will present the awards of Conoco/Jet Motoring Writers and Broadcasters of the Year annual competition, at the London Press Centre on January 19.

The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will open the Treasures from Korea Exhibition, at the British Museum on February 1.

The Duchess of Kent will present the British Forces Broadcasting Service Sporting Personality of the Year award at the National Army Museum on February 1.

The Duchess of Kent, patron, will attend a ball in aid of the National Society for Cancer Relief at the Harrogate International Conference Centre on February 3.

The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will dine with fellows of the Society at Boodle's on February 7.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. S. Back and Miss E. A. Bucknall
The engagement is announced between Julien, second son of Mrs M. Back of Avon Wood, Sway, Lymington, Hampshire, and Mr Jeffrey Back, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. B. Bucknall, of Widden Close, Boldre, Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr J. Byrson and Miss S. J. Dyer
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Byrson, of Parkstone, Dorset, and Sarah Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Dyer, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr J. J. Cama and Miss J. C. Roberts
The engagement is announced from Hongkong between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs John Cama, of Plumpton, Sussex, and Joanna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Roberts, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr D. R. E. Carter and Miss F. J. Jurriaanse
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs R. H. Carter, of Matfield, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr F. J. Jurriaanse, of Fordcombe, Tunbridge Wells, and Mrs J. Jurriaanse of Benenden.

Mr A. V. Conway and Miss M. L. Jeronimus
The engagement is announced between Ashley Vaughan, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Conway, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Martine Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. J. Jeronimus, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr G. B. Field and Miss H. M. Ross
The engagement is announced between Gareth Barrie, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. H. B. Field, of Cardigan, and Heather Mary, only daughter of Captain and Mrs M. J. Ross, of The Wirral, Merseyside.

Mr M. A. N. Fomenky and Miss B. L. Atabong
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Chief J. N. Fomenky and Mrs Fomenky, of Buea Road, Kumba, Cameroon, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr F. W. Atabong and Mrs D. Atabong, of Mutengene, Limbe, Cameroon.

Mr N. Gilhead and Miss N. Fisher
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Colonel and Mrs G. A. Gilhead, of 5 Paston Place, Brighton, Sussex, and Nereide, daughter of Major and Mrs F. W. R. Fisher, of Priors Hall, Parsonage Farm, Stebbing, Essex.

Dr D. C. Hanbury and Dr N. M. Durre
The engagement is announced between Damian Capel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P G Hanbury, of Hailey, Hertford and Nuala Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E B Durre, of Roborough, Plymouth.

Mr S. F. Powell and Miss S. J. Railton
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Brigadier and Mrs George Powell, of Cogswell, Tytherton Lucas, Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Sarah, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Jeremy Railton, of The Old Forge, Deptford, Wylye, Wiltshire.

Dr N. P. Sykes and Dr A. C. Lloyd
The engagement is announced between Nigel, only son of Mr and Mrs Basil Sykes, of Littlehampton, and Anne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair Lloyd, of Littlebury, Saffron Walden.

Lieutenant M. C. P. Snow, RN and Miss J. E. Brown
The engagement is announced between Maxwell Charles Peter, eldest son of Lieutenant-Commander P Snow, RN (Retd), and of Mrs M E Snow, of Gillingham, Dorset, and Joanna Elizabeth, younger daughter of the late Mr W G P Brown and of Mrs A R H Morgan, of Barnjet Priory, Barming, Kent.

Mr C. R. Tyser and Princess Aglaé Schönburg
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Richard Tyser, of Gordonbush, Sutherland, and Princess Claire de Croy, of 31 Limerston Street, London, SW10, and Princess Aglaé, daughter of Prince and Princess Alexander Schönburg, Hartenstein, of Vienna.

Mr W. S. Usden and Miss S. J. Lurie
The engagement is announced between Warren Stuart, elder son of Mr and Mrs Mark Usden, of Prestwich, Manchester, and Suzanne Janet, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Lurie, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Marriages

Wing Commander A. N. Wise and Miss J. A. Alington
The Queen, Prince Andrew and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones were present at the marriage which took place yesterday in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace of Wing Commander Adam Wise, of 43 Boscobel Place, SW1, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Roy Wise, and Miss Jill Alington, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Alington, of Swinhope Hall, Binbrook, Lincoln. The Bishop of London, Dean of the Chapels Royal, and Canon Anthony Caesar officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory coloured silk and an antique lace veil. She carried a bouquet of stephanotis, lilies-of-the-valley and orchids. Miss Lucy Kinsman, Miss Susan Morice-Jones and Miss Lucinda Westmacott attended her. Wing Commander Simon Bostock was best man.

A reception was held at St James's Palace and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P. B. Newton and Miss F. S. FitzGerald
The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, Burnham, Norfolk, between Mr Peter Newton, youngest son of Sir Kenneth Newton, of Wildways, High Broom Lane, Crowborough, Sussex, and the late Lady Newton, and Miss Fiona FitzGerald, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Q. FitzGerald, of Penny Broom, Burnham Market, Norfolk. The Rev C. J. Isaacson officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and Mr Simon Pearson was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. Dahl and Mrs F. A. Crosland
The marriage took place on Thursday, December 15, in London between Mr Roald Dahl, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Felicity Ann Crosland (née d'Abreu), of 9 Turnchapel Mews, London, SW4.

Kenneth Leech

Karl Marx and the Carmelite

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Alison Peers' English translation of the works of St John of the Cross, the sixteenth-century Spanish Carmelite, whose feast fell on Wednesday last.

This year is also the centenary of the death of Karl Marx, and to introduce these two great men to each other might have some useful results. Both are often accused of being cold, negative, and anti-human, lacking in joy and human warmth, gloomy scholars wallowing in darkness and crisis.

Such a judgment is incorrect, though it could be argued that St John had little to say about the social dimensions of spiritual life, and that Marx, and particularly his later followers, seriously neglected the area of personal struggle. Hence the urgency of a dialogue between them.

A superficial reading might suggest that they would have nothing to say to each other, being concerned with utterly different spheres and incompatible views of reality. It would be equally superficial to pretend that there were close affinities of thought: to suggest that is to misunderstand both.

What I am suggesting is that it is the very contrast, the stark contradiction between their approaches, which makes dialogue useful. For the themes with which they were grappling remain of crucial importance for the human future, for the soul and the social order.

First, both writers were concerned with alienation. For St John, the human soul was alienated from the central reality of God. The sign of this alienated condition was self-centredness. The purpose of the spiritual life then was the awakening of the soul to its fundamental grounding in God.

For Marx, alienation was a social and economic fact, rooted specifically in the relation of the person to the products of his or her labour. But its effects were spiritual, resulting in the dehumanizing of people, reduced to the status of things.

Christians can learn from Marx that, as alienation is social, so must redemption be social; and the New Testament supports this view. St Paul's letters emphasize that the work of atonement involves the ending of division within human society.

Second, both saw the need for a process of purification and "unknowing" if people are to penetrate through the structures of falsehood and illusion to truth. St John spoke of detachment and the way of purgation, Marx of deliverance from false consciousness and mystification.

Today the South American theologian, Juan Segundo, who has learnt from both, speaks of the need for "ideological suspicion" if theology is to be liberated from the false concepts which surround it. Both St John and Marx saw that human life and human society was full of deeply embedded lies, illusions, ways of obscuring reality, and that this called for a stripping, a negative way, a ruthless attack on all forms of illusion. If Marx's analysis helps us to do this, we should be grateful and make use of it.

Third, both saw that consciousness is changed and transformed in the process of movement. They were realists, not idealists, recognizing that it is events and circumstances which change awareness.

For St John the central symbol of such change is the Dark Night. The Dark Night is something which happens to us: we do not seek it, we are not prepared for it, yet there is no substitute for its devastating and healing action.

Marx speaks of the revolutionary movement as the only way in which "the alteration of men on a mass scale" can occur. It is not too much to say that both speak of revolution, but St John internalizes it as a profound breakdown and reintegration of the person. Christians can learn from Marx that personal and political transformation are inseparable as many feminist writers have reminded us in recent years.

Finally, both recognized the necessity of conflict and struggle in the achievement of a harmonious personality or social order. That conflict cannot be bypassed by some false pursuit of peace at any price.

For St John here was a warfare within the human heart, a battle for its integrity; for Marx there was the inevitable class war. Christians can learn from them both that peace without the struggle for truth and justice is worthless and that conflict is at the very heart of spiritual progress and of work for a new society.

The author is the Church of England's race relations field officer.

Correction

The reference in last Saturday's article to *The Manchester Guardian* should have been, as the author intended, to *The Guardian*, a Church of England newspaper which has now ceased publication.

Crowning glory: Judy Livermore, the Commonwealth Games heptathlon silver medalist, and Neil Adams, a former world judo champion, displaying the 1984 Olympic Crowns at the Pobjoy Mint, Sutton, Surrey, yesterday. The four crowns have been struck for circulation in the Isle of Man.

Birthdays

TODAY: Dame Mary Cartwright, 83; Mr Christopher Cazenove, 38; Lord Glenamara, CH, 71; Dame Elizabeth Hoyer-Millar, 73; Lord McFazdean, 80; Sir John McNee, 96; Lord Meston, 89; Major-General Sir Robert Neville, 87; Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, 67; Mr Kerry Packer, 46; Mr J. Murray Prain, 81; Mr Robert Robinson, 56; Mr Tommy Steele, 47; Professor W. A. C. Stewart, 68; Sir Lance Townsend, 71.

TOMORROW: Sir Neville Ashenheim, 83; Sir Brian Batsford, 73; Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, 60; Herr Willy Brandt, 70; Sir Hugh Fraser, 47; Lieutenant-Commander I. E. Fraser, VC, 63; Mr Christopher Fry, 76; Miss Rosemary Leach, 48; Miss Annette Page, 51; Mr Merlyn Rees, MP, 63; Lord Robens of Woldingham, 73; Major-General Sir Reginald Scoones, 83; Mr Joe Wade, 64.

Lastest appointments

Lastest appointments include: Mr Alan A McMillan to be solicitor, Scottish Office, in succession to Mr David Cunningham, who is retiring in February.

Mr Robert Brodie on promotion to Under Secretary, will succeed Mr McMillan as Deputy Solicitor.

Mr Ronald Graham, to be President of the Law Society of Scotland.

Mr Keith Jacobs, to be chairman of the Government Advisory Committee on Advertising.

Mr Michael Duffell, Chief Legal Officer and Assistant Town Clerk of Wolverhampton Borough Council to be an assessor to assist the committee of inquiry examining the operation of the Shops Acts to represent the interests of the local authorities.

Memorial service

The Hon Denis Gomer Berry
A memorial service for the Hon Denis Gomer Berry was held yesterday at the Grand Priory Church of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell. The Rev Dr Brian Kirk-Duncan officiated. Mr Richard Berry (son) read the lesson and the Earl of Malmesbury gave an address. Among those present were:

Mrs B Gilmour and Mrs B Harding (daughters), Mr and Mrs Brian Orange (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Richard Berry (daughter-in-law), Mr Rory Gilmour, Mr Christian Gilmour, Miss Louise Harding, Mr and Mrs Robert Llewellyn and Michael, Simon and Jonathan Orange (grandchildren), Viscount and Viscountess Kemsley, the Hon Neville Berry and the Hon Sir Anthony Berry, MP, and Lady Berry (brothers and sisters-in-law), Pamela, Marchioness of Huntly (sister), the Hon Mrs van Raalte, the Hon Mrs Mobbs, the Hon Mrs Bream, Mr George Berry, Lady Lemina Lawson Johnston, the Hon Mrs Watson, Colonel the Hon Julian Berry (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire), Mrs Antony Seys.

The Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Earl St Aldwyn (Chancellor of the Order of St John of Jerusalem), Earl Cathcart, Viscount Runciman of Doxford, Lord Westbury, the Hon Robert Boscawen, MP, the Hon Lady Douglas-Pennant, Sir Dudley Forwood (New Forest Show Society), Major-General Sir Robert Pigot (representing the Royal Yacht Squadron) and Lady Pigot, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Hudson, Sir David and Lady Llewellyn, Vice-Admiral Sir Ronald Brockman, Captain Michael and Lady Nell Boyle, Mr David and Lady Joan Colville, Mr Philip Colville.

Colonel E Remington Hobbs, Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Brownlow, Mrs Edward Morant, Rear-Admiral Royer Dick, Mr Leopold D de Rothschild, Mr David Moore-Wynn, Mrs Peter Clifton, Canon David Rutter, Mr Ronald Dossor, Mr Donald M Parry, Mr A C Gilmour, Major Hamish Forbes, Mr Michael Del Mar, Mr Anthony Lee, Mr David Dixon and Mr George Doughty (representing Withers), Mr Andrew Orange, Commander John Bedells, Commander E A Morrison (chairman, St John Council, Hampshire, also representing the president, St John Ambulance, Hampshire), Mr R Bellwood (St John Council, Northumbria), Dr G L C Colenso Jones, Mr Spencer Herapath (vice-commodore, Household Division Yacht Club), Miss Hermione Hobhouse, Mr Ian Farquhar and Mr M A Hisey (Leopold Joseph and Son).

Queen Ethelburga's School, Harrogate

Mrs Mary Charlotte James, at present Head of History at Casterton School, has been appointed Head of Queen Ethelburga's School from September 1984, in succession to Mr J. E. H. Kingdon who retires in April. Mrs Susan Hopkinson, at present deputy head, will be acting head for the Summer Term.

Services tomorrow Fourth Sunday in Advent

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC 8; M 10.30. Benedicite, Harris in A, And the glory (Handel); HC 11.40; E 3, Watson in E, Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Rev T Beeson; Organ recital 5.55; ES 6.30, The Dean.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC 8; M 10.30, Benedicite, Sumsion in B flat, Jub. Chant by Randell, Rev G Routledge; HC 11.30, Short Service (Batten), Int A spotless Rose (Howells); E 3.15, Mag and Nunc dimittis, Wesley in E, A Vox dicentis (Naylor), Mr D Summerscale.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: HC 9; Cathedral Eucharist 11, A eterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), A, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Zion hears her watchman's voices (Bach), The Provost; Cathedral Carol Service, 3.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Mass 10.30, Missa "Ave Maris Stella" (Victoria), A, Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Ave verum corpus (Philips); Vespers 3.30, Magnificat secund. toni (Anon), Vox dicentis, clama (Naylor).

THE CHAPEL ROYAL AT ST JAMES'S: HC 8.30; MC 11.15, A, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), Canon D Landreth.

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): Service of Lessons and Carols 11.15.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: Festival of Lessons and Carols 11, 6.

TOWER OF LONDON (public welcomed): HC 12.20; Christmas Carol Service 11.15.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): HC 8.30; MP 11.15, Benedicite, Sumsion in B flat, A, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Very Rev R L P Milburn; organ voluntary; 3, Temple Church Carol Service.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): HC 8.30, 12.15; MP 11, Benedicite (Willan), This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Chaplain; 3, Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fuund).

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: HC 8.30; M 11, Benedicite, Willan in D, Benedictus, Short Service (Byrd), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Canon M Moore; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 3.30.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Sung Eucharist 11, Rev M Beech; Service of Lessons and Carols by candlelight, 4.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, HC 9.30; Family Toy and Carol Service 11, Rev A Cornes; Service with informal music 6.30 (A Christmas Theme) Rev R Bewes.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street: LM 8 and 8.15; M, 10.20; HM 11, Missa Brevis (A Gabrieli), The Vicar; Solemn E, S and Benediction 6, Fauxbourdons (Victoria), Rev J W Holden.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: HC 8, noon; 11, Rev J H L Cross, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 5.30.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: HC 8.15; Sung Eucharist 11, Missa Quarti Toni (Victoria), Alma Redemptoris Mater (Philips), Rev Dr A W Marks.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: HC 8; HC (sung), 9; Christingle Family Service 11, Rev J Irvine; ES 6.30, Carols by Candlelight, Rev S Millar; Rev P Whitworth.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: HC 8.30, 12.05, Choral MP 11, Rev Dr M Israel.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street (Sloane Sq Tube): HC 8.30, HC 10.30 Canon Roberts HC 12.10.

ST ALBAN'S, Holborn: SM 9.30; HM 11.00; Missa Brevis (Leighton), Vigilate (Byrd) Fr Gaskell. LM 5.30.

ST BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT PRIORY (AD 1123): HC 9; M and HC 11 (Farrant), A, Dixit Maria (Hassler), The Rector; E (said) 6: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30.

ST BRIDES, Fleet Street: HC 8.30; Choral M and Eucharist, 11, (Vaughan Williams), Benedicite (Jackson in G), Rev W Boulton; Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist 11, Vaughan Williams in G, A, Thou judge of quick and dead (Wesley), Rev G D Watkins; Service of Nine Lessons with Carols 6.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: Festival of Carols 6, St James's Players and Singers including the first performance of a Carol for Christmas, Dominica quarta Adventus (D Nicholls).

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: HC 8.15, 12.15; Choral M and S 11, Rev A Luff; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: Family Communion 9.45, Norman Ingram-Smith; MS 11.30 Rev C Hedley; ES 7, (live broadcast, Radio 4), The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington: HC 8 and 12.30; Sung Eucharist 9.30, E 5: Carols and Blessing of Crib 6.30.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street: LM 8, 9.45, 7; HM 11, Missa Brevis (Shane Fletcher), Canite Tuba (Guerrero), Ave Maria (Victoria) Ven F Harvey; E and Solemn Benediction 6.15.

ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: HC 8 and 11, Missa Je ne menge poinct de pore (Lassus), Ave Maria (Arcadelt), Rev C K Hamel Cooke; Festival of Nine Lessons and Christmas Carols by candlelight 6.30.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square: HC 8.15, 11, Canon D Watson; 6.30 Carol Service, Rev J Mumford.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: HC 8 and 9; Solemn Eucharist, 11, Rev A C C Courtauld.

ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: HC 11, Canon Kelin de Berry; 6.30 Carol Service.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Chelsea: HC 8; Parish Communion 11, Dean of Westminster; Carols 6.30.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road: LM 8, 9; HM 11, Missa Super Dixit Maria (Hassler), Rev G Morgan; E and Benediction, 6, Rev Dr P Butler.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: SM 11, Plainsong Mass, Advent prose, Canon ffrench-Beytagh.

ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland) Russel Street, Covent Garden: 11.15, Pre-Christmas Family Service, Rev J Miller Scott; Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30.

THE ORATORY, SW7: LM 7, 8, 9, 10; HM 11, Missa Dixit Maria (Hassler), Aspiciens a longe (Handl); LM 12.30, 4.30, 7; Vespers 3.30, Creatoralme Siderum (Dufay).

ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: SM 11, Missa Brevis (Anerio), Propo Est Dominus (Zuccari).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place (Holborn Circus): SM 11, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Motet Dixit Maria (Hassler).

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street (Regent Street) W1: LM 8, 10; 11 (Sung) Mass in B flat K 275 (Mozart), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Ave Maria (Parsons); LM noon, 4, 6.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: SM (Latin), 10.45, Missa Culusvis Toni (Ockeghem), Canite Tuba (Palestrina).

THE JESUIT CHURCH, Farm Street: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 11 (Sung Latin Mass) Missa in Adventus (Haydn), Ecce Concipies (Handl), Organ recital, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15.

REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: (United Reformed), Tavistock Place: 11, Rev W Workman; 6.30 Rev J Miller.

ST JOHN'S WOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Presbyterian, Congregationalist) Lord's Roundabout, NW8: 9.30am Rev J Miller.

CENTRAL HALL, Westminster: 11 and 6.30 (Christingle Service), Rev Dr R J Tudor.

WEST LONDON MISSION, Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1: 11, Rev S Jordan; 6.30, Rev J Nowlan.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct, EC: 11, Rev Dr B Johanson; 6.30, Rev R Gordon.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate: 11 and 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: 11, Christingle Service, Rev Dr R C Gibbins.

Dinners

Earl of Cranbrook
The Earl of Cranbrook, president of the British Herpetological Society, was host at the first Malcolm Smith dinner (named after the founding president) held last night at the House of Lords. The guests included:
Dr R F Inger, Miss A G C Grandison, Professor A d'A Bellairs, Dr J F D Frazer, Dr K G Klemmer, Dr M R K Lambert (chairman), Dr R A Avery, Professor G A D Haslewood, Mr K F Corbett, Dr H R Bustard and Dr I R Swingland.

Guild of Guardians of Bristol
The annual dinner of the Guild of Guardians of Bristol was held yesterday at Fosters Rooms, Bristol. The Master, Mr A G O'Leary, presided and the principal guests were the Lord Mayor of Bristol and the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers. Mr John Cockle was installed as the new Master.

Luncheon

Master's Club
A luncheon of the Master's Club was held at the Oval yesterday. The toast of the master was proposed by Mr J Arlott. Others present were:
Mr A V Bedser, Mr R G T Carter, Sir Alexander Durie, Sir George Edwards, OM, Mr C S Elliott, Mr L Harrison, Mr J A D Hobbs, Mr D J Insole, Mr J E MarSwiney, M J Marshall, Mr B L Reed, Mr R Subba Row, Mr W S Surridge, Mr I Scott Browne, Mr L Ames, Mr J Mercer and Mr M R Barton.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):
Bailey, Mr Horace, of Bierton, Buckinghamshire £416,841
Isaacs, Mr Alfred Solomon, of West Hill, Highgate, London £472,883

Science report

Unravelling the body's sugar code

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Three broad classes of organic molecule are now known to control the activities of living cells. Two, proteins and nucleic acids, have been studied so intensively that scientists understand their structures and main functions, at least in general terms.

But the role of the third category, sugars, remains a mystery. Indeed research at Oxford University and in Japan has only recently demonstrated that sugars do play an essential and complex part in cell behaviour and that they are not extraneous to it as many biochemists had previously believed.

The group at Oxford's Department of Biochemisty, led by Dr Raymond Dwek and Dr Tom Rademacher, has developed equipment to unravel the detailed structure of the sugars in the cell. With the help of a £1.2m research contract awarded this week by Monsanto, the American chemical company, they expect to discover what the sugars do.

The answers, which are likely to be concerned with communication between cells, could be extremely important for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Sugars are attached to most proteins in the body. They occur as complex carbohydrate molecules, called oligosaccharides, in which up to 30 simple sugar units are linked together in linear or branched chains. This is somewhat analogous to the linking of amino acids in proteins or of nucleic acids in DNA, except that the branching of sugar chains gives yet another level of complexity.

Evidence is accumulating to show that the precise structure of an oligosaccharide depends on the cell where it originates. For example, Dr Dwek's team at Oxford has shown that each line of cloned antibody-producing cells has a characteristic arrangement of sugar molecules. Therefore a sugar "fingerprinting" technique could presumably be developed for proteins.

There seems to be a sort of "sugar code", waiting to be unravelled by a brilliant scientist somewhere, which determines the precise function of each oligosaccharide. In addition to the primary sequence of sugars, the molecules also possess a definite secondary structure.

Experiments indicate that cancer cells have sugar structures quite different from their normal counterparts, a property that might be exploited for diagnostic purposes.

The computerized analytical equipment developed at Oxford works quite fast. It used a chemical (anhydrous hydrazine) to strip the oligosaccharide off the protein, followed by a bank of special enzymes to remove the characterize the individual sugar units one by one.

The Oxford group is also working on techniques to isolate large quantities of specific oligosaccharides. Then, for the first time, scientists will be able to study their pharmacological properties and discover exactly what difference the sugars make to the activity of proteins.

The results will be of particular interest to biotechnologists producing drugs by genetic engineering. Bacteria can make human proteins when the appropriate genes are inserted but, unlike human cells, they do not add sugar molecules to the proteins.

Genetic engineers are becoming increasingly concerned about this omission. If the sugars are in fact required for the protein (a hormone, say, or an enzyme) to work properly in the human body, then some way will have to be found to attract them to the bacterial product before it is used clinically.

OBITUARY

MR DAVID MARKHAM

Actor and campaigner for Soviet dissidents

Mr David Markham, the actor, who died on December 15 at the age of 70, was an active campaigner on behalf of civil rights dissidents in the Soviet Union and in other countries of the Soviet empire. Perhaps his most significant achievement was to campaign in such a way as to set up conditions for the release of the Soviet dissident, Vladimir Bukovsky, in 1976.

Until his civil rights activities became a matter of public interest his career in the theatre had been one of solid distinction. He had been in the theatre since 1934.

Slightly-built, intellectual, and, though naturally gentle, a player of firm decision, he could appear sometimes, because of his prematurely silvered hair, to be older than he was. He acted Hamlet twice, once in Oxford repertory, and again on the London fringe when, through no fault of his performance, the production had to be withdrawn. Much of his career was outside London.

His real name was Peter Basil Harrison. Born on April 3, 1913, and educated at Malvern and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, he made his debut (1934) at Rusholme Repertory, Manchester. It took him only a short time to reach London – a small part in the comedy, *All Rights Reserved* (Criterion, 1935); he remained in and round the West End for five years, acting a private soldier in *Red Night* (Queen's, 1936) and Hareton Earnshaw in a version of *Wuthering Heights* (Little, 1937). That autumn, he was in St John Ervine's *Robert's Wife* which ran, with Edith Evans, for 606 performances at the Globe.

At Christmas 1939 he played Octavius in a modern-dress *Julius Caesar* (His Majesty's) from which he went to the Embassy and Shaw's intolerable Bentley Summerhays in *Misalliance*.

During the war Markham was occupied in the regions, touring, for example, with the Old Vic as Trofimov in *The Cherry Orchard*, and (also for the Vic) appearing as Mercutio, Shaw's Bluntschli and Ibsen's Dr Rank at Liverpool Playhouse. His first Hamlet was at Oxford Playhouse in 1944. Later, on various stages, he played Peter in *Pick Up Girl* (Prince of Wales's, London, 1946), two parts in a Lyric, Hammersmith double bill of Sartre (1947), and Angel Clare in an Old Vic tour of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

For a while now he concentrated on London, beginning (1948) as Judah in *Family Portrait*, with Fay Compton (Strand), and going on to Valentine, the five-shilling dentist, in Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* (Wyndham's and Criterion) and, in 1949, at the Arts Theatre Club, a pair of testing characters.

Thereafter he was frequently out of London. He played his second Hamlet at the New Boltons, Kensington (1951); was again at the Arts, amusingly in 1952 as Lord Arthur in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, and in 1954 the Perpetual Student in John Gielgud's version of *The Cherry Orchard* at Hammersmith.

Among other plays were *The Fourth of June* (St Martin's, 1964), a double bill of Shaw adaptations (Mermaid, 1968), Albee's *All Over* in which he acted the doctor for the RSC (Aldwych, 1972), and *The Tempest* (1974) when he was Gonzalo in a National Theatre revival at the Old Vic. He appeared too, in major regional repertory. Among his television parts was Mr Asquith as Prime Minister.

Markham campaigned actively on behalf of dissidents within the Soviet block. His principle effort and his major success was on behalf of Vladimir Bukovsky, but there were other figures, not all Russian on whose behalf he spoke and wrote and organized meetings.

David Markham was married to Olive-Marie Dehn.

PROFESSOR LEON MIRSKY

Professor Leon Mirsky, who, until his retirement last September, was Professor of Pure Mathematics in the University of Sheffield, died suddenly on December 1, shortly before his 65th birthday.

Educated at King's College, London, Mirsky spent most of his professional career in Sheffield: he was appointed to an assistant lectureship in 1945, and his contributions to scholarship and research were recognized by successive promotions which culminated in the award of a personal chair in 1971.

At a time of ever-increasing specialization Mirsky was remarkable for achieving distinction in three fields, the theory of numbers, linear algebra and combinatorial mathematics. In over 80 research papers he demonstrated a rare insight which enabled him to separate essentials from inessentials and to perceive significant connexions between apparently unrelated ideas.

His first text book, on linear algebra, was a pioneering work when it was published in 1955; a second edition and a recent reissue show how well it has stood the test of time. A later book, *Transversal Theory*, has for more than ten years been the standard work of reference in this area of combinatorics. The success of the two books bears witness to Mirsky's gift for exposition; his hallmark was elegance combined with clarity.

This talent was also an ingredient in the mastery he desplayed in the lecture theatre, though it was his infectious delight in his subject which was mainly responsible for turning every lecture – for undergraduates or for professional mathematicians – into a long-remembered occasion. He was particularly eager to share ideas at research level and firmly believed that research should always be a cooperative rather than competitive venture.

Mirsky's intellectual enthusiasm was by no means confined to mathematics. His knowledge of literature, history and philosophy was wide and, in some areas, almost professional. Many of his former colleagues will miss the stimulus of conversations with him on these and a host of other subjects.

He is survived by his widow, Dr Aileen Guilding, herself a distinguished biblical scholar.

MR GEOFFREY BARRELL

Geoffrey Richard Barrell, who died on December 6, aged 66, was Senior Vice-President of the College of Preceptors and an expert on the legal aspects of education.

Educated at Earls Colne Grammar School, St Luke's College, Exeter, and London University, he was an assistant master at Colchester High School and at Mexborough Grammar School before becoming Headmaster of St John's Church of England Secondary School in 1954. He was appointed as Headmaster of Sir John Cass's Foundation School in 1957 and supervised in 1966 the exacting task of its translation to a new site and its merger with another school as the Sir John Cass's and Redcoat School, Tower Hamlets, one of London's early comprehensives.

He was actively interested in the possibility of examinations for those pupils who could not expect to reach GCE standards, and was instrumental in the development of the College of Preceptors Secondary Examinations which were the precursors of the CSE. He retired in 1977 and devoted himself to lecturing in educational law for the College of Preceptors, becoming legal consultant to the Professional Association of Teachers in 1980.

He had joined the College of Preceptors in 1957, gaining a seat on its council in 1959 and being elected vice-president in 1980. He pioneered the college's work in management training for headteachers, travelling the country to found courses and to lecture.

He was the author of a number of publications, his best known being *Teachers and the Law*, widely accepted as the definitive work on English Law as it relates to education and which he updated from time to time in the light of new case law and legislation. He was working on a new edition at the time of his death.

MISS DOROTHY BATLEY

Miss Dorothy Batley, who has died aged 81, was a London-born actress who had been on the stage since she was six when she played Little Willie in *East Lynne*.

She had her first important West End work in the mid-twenties; but she had appeared already, at eighteen, as one of the insipid girls in *Charley's Aunt*. She had dealt, on tour, with a leading woman's difficulties in such plays as *The Cat and the Canary* and *Bulldog Drummond*, so it was no trouble to take on Odile (1924) in *The Rat* at The Prince of Wales, a drama which was written by Ivor Novello and Constance Collier under the pseudonym, David L'Estrange.

She went on with Novello, as Kathie in a revival of *Old Heidelberg* (1926).

In November 1926 (Ambassadors) she followed Molly Kerr as the Shingled Lady in Galsworthy's *Escape*. She was in a revival of *The Rat* in (1927) and in 1929 toured South Africa with Guy Newall, whom she married. She was in two other Novello plays during the 1930s, *Murder in Mayfair* and (at Drury Lane) the long run of *Crest of the Wave*. Later from July 1941 she appeared as Ella in Esther McCracken's *Quiet Weekend* for over three years.

SUNDER KABADI

Sunder Kabadi, the doyen of Commonwealth correspondents, has died in London aged 85. Born in Bombay he came to Britain for the first Round Table conference in 1931 and during his long career was correspondent for the *Indian Express*, the *Navind Times*, *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*, and the *Sydney Daily Mirror*.

He was a president of the Commonwealth Correspondents' Association and the Indian Journalists' Association and founder secretary of the Indian Gymkhana Club.

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THE TIMES Saturday

17-23 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Tripping the night fantastic

Photographs by Laurie Sparham











Happiness at the Hippodrome: Late-night revellers include the 'Gruesome Threesome', Guardsmen Tony, Merv and Mal (top)

Sitting pretty at the Camden Palace: Some of the faces who have brought a touch of glamour to the wilds of north-west London

Who cares about the depression? Not the hedonistic youngsters who are flocking to the new kind of big city nightclubs. **Max Bell** gets caught in the rush

Swinging London is back. The opening last month of the Hippodrome, a £3m pleasure palace, and the seasonal exigencies have reinforced the belief that the recession can be forgotten. There is a new desire to see and be seen in the brash and expensive hedonistic havens of the city's night life.

The New Romantic movement, which has now been assimilated into high fashion, is one reason for the recent proliferation of clubs. The modern obsession with style and individual dress has generated the need for new places where people can congregate and study each other.

This desire to parade finds many parallels with the 1920s when an economic slump was offset by a hellbent determination to step out and shine, to ad-lib. The club scene flourished in the 1960s, but then the music was paramount and tastes were more orthodox. Now they are far more heterogeneous. There is a club to suit every preference: from African to 1940s jump and jive, from smart punk to leather fetishism.

Similarly, while the record charts now form the domain of the new breed of teeny-boppers, older teenagers and young adults feel less inclined to take it all too seriously.

The arrival of the American-style cocktail bar has given British youth the ideal environment in which to celebrate its new-found sense of style and ready money. Live music halls or pubs seem dreary by comparison and today's youth has no intention of adhering to former Prime Minister James Callaghan's injunction to be in bed by 11 o'clock. The clubs, with their late licensing hours, are the natural places in which to flout the depression.

"To be an Englishman is to belong to the most exclusive club there is", wrote Ogden Nash. The Camden Palace in London NW1 may not be the most exclusive club in the world, but it has been voted the best in Europe by those who know, and the proof lies in the thousands of addicts of London night life who pass through its heavily guarded doors six nights a week. They come to Slum It In Style on Tuesdays or luxuriate in Helden on Thursdays. For a few hours metropolitan youth can assume an heroic status, rub shoulders with the stars and indulge in a glittering, noisy fantasy.

The Palace is impressive. Formerly the prosaic Music Machine, it was converted for £1m by Messrs Fredericks and Henry, two Coventry businessmen. They added lasers, a barrage of lights, the throbbing dance floor and the inflated circus figures that hang from the ceiling. The effect is futuristic meets art deco.

They also added Steve Strange and his partner Rusty Egan. Strange is London's most notorious socialite, a Welsh emigré, aged 24, who presides as Palace host, entertaining his florid guests in the cocktail bar like a New Wave Beau Brummell or John Wilkes.

He and Egan anticipated the 1980s club boom with a succession of smaller ventures, Billies, Club for Heroes, Hell and Blitz, watering holes for the New Romantic movement which spawned the designers Sue Clowes and Stephen Linnard and pop stars Spandau Ballet and Boy George.

It has been said that once a trend is indentified it is over, but the Palace seems to be doing well. At a recent Helden the place was packed for the visit of Divine, an outrageous New York transvestite. On the fourth tier of this vast edifice Bob Bates, the Doncaster-born bar manager, nods good evening to one of the visions of beauty that flock here. This is Dave, aged 19, from Birmingham, his hair arranged like a Spanish galleon under full sail. In his stilletoed wake – "more comfortable than Hush Puppies, mate" – come four more of Ziggy Stardust's children, the glamour kings, David Singh, Trojan, Leigh Bowery and Peter Hammond. Their five-inch platform boots, lurex tights, pancake make-up and plaits draw the immediate interest of an Italian film crew, here like everyone else to participate in the clubland phenomenon.

Strange holds forth at the bar. It is well past midnight but the place is not yet full: anyone who is anyone arrives late and stays until 3am. An evening at the Palace can be expensive. Admission is £4 and it is not much fun nursing one lager all night. It is, after all, extremely hot. Strange knows that the poorer visitors smuggle in drink, but he still wonders where on earth they get the money from.

Patsy and Delia, both aged 18, arrive at 10pm and intend to stay until the end. They like the piña colada cocktails and will spend about £30 each before taking a taxi all the way home to Biggin Hill in Kent. "People are fed up with being depressed", Strange says. "These kids have got the latest clothes. I don't know *how* they manage."

In common with the more upmarket clubs the Palace operates a door policy which Strange defines as an attitude. "If people are polite, fine, but if eight guys arrive together that spells trouble."

Six tube stops away Peter Stringfellow, the flamboyant 43-year-old proprietor of the Hippodrome, on the old Talk of the Town site just off Leicester Square, sits back and fingers his £800 suede suit with glee. After 20 years of working in and running nightclubs Stringfellow can claim: "I am the best single club owner in Britain. I may look like a rock'n'roll dropout but I am financially sound. The Hippodrome is all mine, bought with pound notes, cash." He spent more than 50,000 of them on the club's opening party.

Sharp as a razor blade and son of a steel worker, Stringfellow started his club life in the early 1960s booking the Beatles for £85 at the Black Cat before running the notorious Mojo mod club in Sheffield. He moved into discos with Cinderellas and Rockefellas in Leeds, sold these to Mecca and then sank his savings into the Millionaire in Manchester.

"I sold that to Granada for a tidy profit and arrived in the West End. I wouldn't be anywhere else. The West End is glamour, it's frivolous but it's entertainment."

While Strange at the Palace had been guardely polite about the Hippodrome as competition, Stringfellow was less charitable about the Palace. "I like the place and I'd like some of their bizarre clientele, but Camden is so provincial; it's just like Scunthorpe. I wouldn't have paid three million for a place two streets from here."

He also adopts a door policy: "No coach parties from Wigan or scruffs", and one gets the feeling that Christmas office outings would not be overwelcome either. Admission on Friday is £7.50, cocktails are twice Palace prices, a bottle of Dom Perignon will set you back £55. Who pays these prices, I wondered?

Tracey and Pete, 21-year-olds from Dartford, had come to the West End because they saw the Hippodrome on television. They'd tried the Beat Route and Gossips and the Empire but wouldn't go to the Palace. Not their scene.

Tracey wasn't sure if this was her scene either and Pete was shocked at the admission price, but if it had been £20 he would have paid. Too embarrassing not to and anyway the club was exclusive, they didn't let in any riff-raff. This was flash, with those lasers. And those sofas! You sank back a foot in those! Seen the lavatories! Hair spray, cologne, the lot! What an experience! Out of this world!

It struck me that the Hippodrome was deliberately ostentatious, an extension of its owner's ego, like his other club Stringfellows. On the hydraulic dance floor the Hot Gossip dance troupe went through their sexy routine while a DJ jollied the hordes along like a holiday camp redcoat. Around the club an army of young men with elaborate brushes scurried about sweeping up imaginary ash into brass receptacles.

Three of the Hippodrome's more unusual guests introduced themselves as the Gruesome Threesome, Tony, Merv and Mal from Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent, currently residing in Knightsbridge as squaddies in Her Majesty's Horse Guards, the Blues and Royals. They liked the Hippodrome, it was for the in-crowd. Did it matter if they spent £40?

Like so many other recent artistic and social innovations the new "hip" generation of young nightclubbers had its origin on the gay fringe. The need to form a peacock parade of bright colours and outrageous social display in public stemmed directly from the lifting of legal and social restrictions on the gay community. It was out of the closet and into the eyes of the world.

One club which perhaps sparked off this wave of narcissistic yet proselytizing display was Heaven, the gay club situated underneath the arches near Charing Cross station. It was packed on the night I visited and the customers were paying rapt attention to the various acts on show.

Ian Levine the DJ, was pleased. The success of the night, a dance routine recorded for posterity by film director Ken Russell, indicated the club's position as style leader even among the straight clubs. Both the Palace and the Hippodrome have started gay nights of their own.

Outside London the recession has given all the clubs a different atmosphere. Manchester's Hacienda, Liverpool's State, Glasgow's Henry Afrikas and Nottingham's Rock City are excellent, but they cannot afford London's elitism. Drinks and admission are usually half the prices charged in the capital. Inside the people seem friendlier; there are fewer poseurs, the dress is less self-conscious.

Derby's Blue Note illustrates this. A club with a capacity of 400, run by Phil Long, it has been attracting custom from all over the Midlands for four years. It has videos, lights, bars and food, but it also has conversation. The clientele is young, mostly female and buys very few cocktails. Dawn and Kathy, aged 18, and both at college, have travelled 15 miles to get here. They have been to London only twice and never to a club. They like the music because it's not too obscure. To them it is more like a party than a club.

Melanie and Rachel, aged 20, are not trendy cocktail bar people though they might celebrate the end of their Government Training Scheme week with a Malibu cocktail. They resent the places like 42nd Street, where customers pretend to wear designer clothes. Those clubs want *nice* people but Derby isn't full of nice people. And being choosy costs you custom. The Blue Note started off with a door policy, but after two weeks it was empty, so now it lets anyone in.

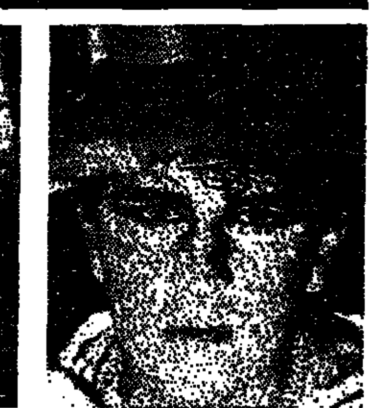
Back in London the smarter clubs were arranging their Christmas events. The Palace is offering special menus ranging from £8.50 to £14.50 a head, a Blondes Only party and a New Year's Eve Masked Ball.

At the Hippodrome, Stringfellow is hosting a Variety Club do for 800 children. For the regulars it is like Christmas every day.

At Heaven David Inches promised: "There'll be lots and lots of snow, £500 worth."

But the hippiest new club in London, the Circus, has no special seasonal plans. Under Jeremiah Haysi it is a moving irregular event that has operated from warehouses, established clubs and the Scottish Regimental Drill Hall opposite Buckingham Palace – the ultimate *coup de theatre*. The Circus may soon be symptomatic of a new breed of cheaper club with £1 admission and £1 drinks.

Dr Johnson's well-worn aphorism "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford" is still true. For those who can afford it.



Clubmen: Hosts Peter Stringfellow (left) and Steve Strange

THE HIPPODROME, corner of Charing Cross Road and Cranbourn Street, London WC2 (437 4311)
Doors open 9pm-3am. Licensed until 2am. Food in the Balcony Restaurant, approximately £10 a head. House wine £6, champagne from £18, cocktails £3.50-£5, lager £1.25 a glass, spirits with mixers from £1.65. Club entry *£5-£7.50*. Live music, dance, disco, personal appearances, videos.

CAMDEN PALACE, 1a Camden High Street, London NW1 (387 0428)
Doors open 9pm-3am. Licensed until 2am (New Year's Eve 3am). Food in the Gallery Restaurant, minimum charge £4 a person. Wine from £4.75. Club entry £3-£4. Lager £1.20, cocktails from £2.50. Live music, disco, personal appearances, videos.

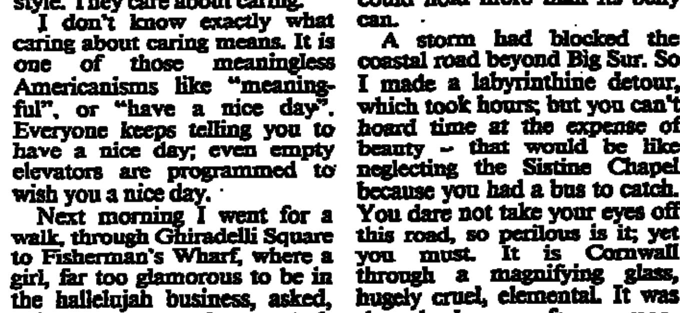
HEAVEN (including Cellar Bar), The Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2 (839 3852)
Doors open 10pm-3am. Licensed until 3am, except Sunday 11.30pm. Food in Heaven restaurant, main dishes about £1.60. House wine £4.80, pint lager £1, house drinks on Wednesday until midnight 50p. Spirits with mixer £1. Club entry from 50p Wednesdays for UB40s to £3.50 Saturdays. Some union card concessions, check with club for details). Live music, personal appearances, videos, disco.

BLUE NOTE CLUB, 14a Sadler Gate, Derby (0332 42569)
Doors open 9pm-2am. Fast food from £1 in the Diner. House wine £4.50, Red Stripe lager £1.10, spirits with mixer £1.05, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1.50-£2.50. Live music, special nights, videos.

THE HACIENDA, 11-13 Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061 236 5051)
Doors open 9pm-2am. Food from £1, lager 80p, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1-£3.50. Live music, *self-defence classes, videos.*

FOR EVER ENGLAND

To live in California is to inhabit a world of extremes. Michael Watkins gets to grips with the weird, appealing ways of the place where one day the kissing will have to stop



Cable cars and stars in the land of lunacy

Jessica Mitford flew out of San Francisco the day I flew in. I don't think there was anything personal in it; a question of imperfect timing, that's all. As I was checking into Nob Hill, she was doing much the same thing in London.

No, I wasn't being coy about Nob Hill; it's the address of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, from where you can watch fog steal in from the Pacific, obscuring Golden Gate Bridge in minutes.

"Everybody's Favourite City" is San Francisco's modest claim, coined, I believe, by Alistair Cooke. The song-writer takes up the refrain: someone left his heart in San Francisco, where little cable cars climb halfway to the stars. Someone else left his heart at Alcatraz, bleak and impregnable out there in the bay; his name was Al Capone. Usually you could hear the grinding lurch of those cable cars as they climbed vertiginously from Powell and Market Streets; but this time they were stilled, the system being overhauled for the first time in history – so everyone walked, breathlessly, rapturously, in this breathless, rapturous city.

In my room, I spread out the *San Francisco Chronicle*: Ernie's Restaurant on Montgomery Street was still going; and Lauren Bacall was still going too, starring in *Woman of the Year* at the Golden Gate Theater. Then I noticed that Rosemary Clooney was opening that evening, a supper show at the Fairmont; and because, at 11, I was unrequitedly in love with Miss Clooney, I booked a table.

Today Miss Clooney is a grandmother, wholesome as a wheatgerm loaf; and she belted out "Come on-a My House", and she caressed a foggy day in London town and I loved her all over again. I told her so. That was after the show, in her suite. "This is a civilized city", she told me. "More European than anywhere in the States, they care about food, clothes, style. They care about caring."

I don't know exactly what caring about caring means. It is one of those meaningless Americanisms like "meaningful", or "have a nice day". Everyone keeps telling you to have a nice day; even empty elevators are programmed to wish you a nice day.

Next morning I went for a walk, through Ghiradelli Square to Fisherman's Wharf, where a girl, far too glamorous to be in the hallelujah business, asked, "You wanna be saved, brother?"

There are lots of kooky girls in the Cannery. They are interested in yoga, vegetarianism, cytogenics; and they will all turn into little old ladies in tennis shoes. Yet they are tolerated, venerated even; for San Francisco is a most forgiving city: the blacks forgive the whites who forgive the gays who forgive the heterosexuals who forgive the Jews who forgive the *goys*. Bald is beautiful; and there are topless girls in bars watched glumly by men with topless minds. "Talk to a totally nude girl for $1", I read on a sign; it seemed a friendly thing to do.

Remembering her book *Hons and Rebels*, I asked Jessica Mitford Treuhaft's husband, Bob, if she was still rebellious. "She likes to preserve the image of a rebel", he said. He also said that California has a very seductive element to the British; he should know, the Treuhafts have lived in San Francisco since 1943 – why, in southern California alone, there are 375,000 expatriate British.

Resisting superlatives, San Francisco is *one* of my favourite cities because it climbs hills while other cities spread out. It encourages its immigrants to retain their ethnic differences while other places assimilate them. It rejoices in a public transport system as archaic as Stephenson's Rocket. It bakes sourdough bread; and it is a launching pad projecting you towards Big Sur and a road south.

Monterey comes first, 120 miles from San Francisco; still a fishing town despite the gooey things that happened to Sinatra a long time ago. I stayed the night there, eating clam chowder and abalone puffs at Rappa's on Old Fisherman's Wharf. The cabaret was terrific; a salty pride of sea-lions made oink-oinking barks at a pelican demonstrating that its beak could hold more than its belly can.

A storm had blocked the coastal road beyond Big Sur. So I made a labyrinthine detour, which took hours; but you can't hoard time at the expense of beauty – that would be like neglecting the Sistine Chapel because you had a bus to catch. You dare not take your eyes off this road, so perilous is it; yet you must. It is Cornwall through a magnifying glass, hugely cruel, elemental. It was shaped by a force more omnipotent even than William Randolph Hearst, who built a monument to himself, a shrine if you prefer, calling it La Cuesta Encantata, the Enchanted Hill – more brutally known as Hearst Castle.

'It is best to be anaesthetized'

Hearst, they say, was the model for Citizen Kane, who had a dark dream and constructed a monumental folly of another kind. Years ago I met a guide at the San Simeon castle who had been in service in Hearst's time. Her name was Milly; she had a face of almost seraphic vacuity and was possessed of a sealyham-type devotion for her master. Mr Hearst, she told me, was adorable; and there her case rested.

I could have made San Simeon to Los Angeles city limits that night, it's only 150 miles or so; but you need to steady yourself against the cultural shock waves of LA. Exposing yourself too suddenly could lead to brain damage. So, like a penitent on the eve of revelation, I sought refuge at Morro Bay, savouring stiff ocean breezes and stiffer draughts of Jack Daniels. It is best to be numb, to be anaesthetized; for, if San Francisco welcomes you elegantly, Los Angeles greets you with a snarl, with trombones and a hundred trendy expletives. LA survives through one cardinal rule: to be "with-it". Without-it is for the birds.

Los Angeles – indeed, every square inch of southern California – is mad, certifiably mad. And this palpable lunacy is what, perversely no doubt, I like about the place. There is a dynamism in the air, a dynamism for freedom of expression; and if the formula contains lemming-like ingredients, then so be it.

There is a seismic certainty that California will detach itself from the American continent, drifting towards an even more enviable climate in the vicinity of Hawaii. And if the process is delayed too long, there is always the possibility that the Queen Mary, moored at Long Beach, could be commandeered as a towing agent. The future, you see, is insecure; one day the kissing will have to stop; if it's not Vietnam it will be Nicaragua, and if it's not Nicaragua some kid in Sacramento will bypass the computer circuit at the Pentagon . . .

There are 460 square miles of LA, every yard in perpetual motion, 50 suburbs in search of a city. Nothing is allowed to unwind, least of all people whom you imagine should be taking it easy by now. Like Christopher Isherwood, still perched above Santa Monica Canyon. I hadn't seen him in ages. He hasn't changed much, the same undimmed blue eyes, the same incorrigible glee of a prep-school boy opening his tuckbox. He hasn't grown much either: he's a bit over 5ft, but not much.

The timing was better than with Jessica Mitford. "I'm off to New York tomorrow", he announced. "To collect some award worth $16,000 – not to be sniffed at", he added, sniffing. Isherwood first came with Auden in the 1930s but Auden felt California was "stagnant", so moved to New York, leaving his friend at MGM Studios, in company with Dorothy Parker.

"I think I'm 79", he said vaguely. "But I know I'm Californian. They don't ask where you're from, as long as you're yourself. There are few taboos – all that's required is to be different, dig up an act, like being British. Anyway, I'm running out of kith and kin in England."

I left him on the "deck" of the house on Adelaide Drive. We had been admiring the sunset, Isherwood flapping his arms against his chest as if to ward off the frost of northern England that got to his bones those years ago. "You know", he said, "Sally Bowles was a real person." He looked like a satyr, jubilant, needing to surprise, yet wanting little else.

Certainly he wouldn't want a Rolls-Royce, I thought next day, lunching in Wilshire Boulevard with Anthony Thompson, President of Rolls-Royce Beverly Hills. Well, if Isherwood can do without a Rolls, there are 6,300 souls in the area to whom the vehicle is a necessity.

"It's a way of showing quite conspicuously that that you've won your laurels", Thompson said. "There's a natural respect for wealth here."

That evening the fare was more frugal. Bangers and mash and John Courage beer at Ye Olde Kings's Head on Santa Monica Boulevard. I ate with John Gordon, the English publican, and a girl called Geri Jean. "The extremes are all here", said John. "And everything in between. Fads, cults, trends, all begin here. Everybody is clawing at being somebody, their 60 seconds of fame. They're all writers or actors, or out-of-work actors saying 'But I'm up for a great role'. There's a mass identity crisis."

There is no identity crisis about the Queen Mary, aboard which I spent that night in a teak-panelled cabin, all art deco and foot-operated Shanks lavatories. She carried captains and kings, the Windsors, Churchill, Laurel and Hardy, Coward and Dietrich, crossing the Atlantic in three days, 20 hours and 42 minutes, using up 30,000 eggs during the passage. But California is looking after her; she sits proud at the Long Beach quay, every inch a lady.

'Compete or keep a low profile'

Again, I took the long way to Palm Springs, out of LA through Pasadena, into the Mojave Desert, through the San Bernadino Mountains. It used up the whole day instead of two hours. I did it as a kind of purifying rite; and to remind myself that California is crammed with raw beauty as well as freaks, funky-dunks and weirdos. And anyway, Palm Springs is something else. Seeing is believing.

Buildings do not rise higher than palm-tree height, deferring to the eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not cast a shadow over thy neighbour's swimming pool", of which, at last count, there was such a proliferation that you could swim every day for 14 years, two months and 15 days without using the same pool twice.

There are two choices in Palm Springs: compete or keep a low profile – you know, a closed mouth gathers no foot. The competition is strenuous: the Annenbergs, Fords, Bob Hope, Sinatra, Kirk Douglas, Patrick McNee. You'd have to join a country club of course; one like the Vintage, entrance fee $40,000, provided you own a house on the property, upwards of half a million. You'd need to be seen as well, at charity benefits, such as the Temple Isaiah party, $10,000 minimum a couple.

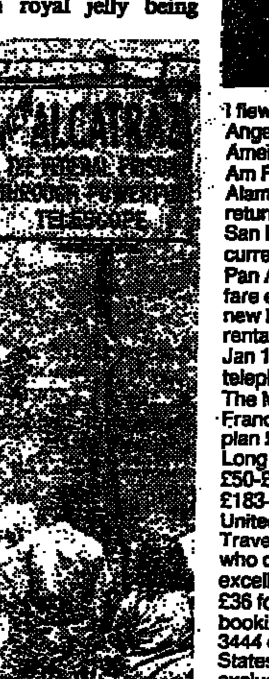
You would need a dress or two as well, and a ton of jewelry; and a ready line in witty gossip. "My dear, she's such a good housekeeper. Every time she gets divorced, she keeps the house."

They are even working on open-air conditioning; one restaurant, Las Casuelas, has it already. There is talk that entire streets will be air-conditioned, so that shopping for your essential Cartier, Hermès or groceries will be quite a treat in the 130°F summer temperatures. In Palm Springs, there is much concern with health, bee pollen with royal jelly being available on the supermarket shelves; bodies are being sensibly rejuvenated with spirulina plankton. Overnight octogenarians are turning into a seething mass of hormones.

I stayed with my old chum Zukowski, editor of *Palm Springs Life* magazine. "Let's play aphorisms", I suggested over a plateful of bean shoots. "How about: living in Southern California guarantees the loss of a few IQ points a year?" she said. Seriously, on the surface, life here looks as easy as eating chocolate ice-cream. It's not. Like any place that extends a promise of instant fame and fortune, it's fraught with danger. The streets of Los Angeles, last frontier of the American dream, are paved with broken hearts.

Well, there's California for you, as meaningfully as I can manage. Polythene-wrapped and sanitized for your personal protection. God supplied this particular Big Apple, as rosy a fruit as in the whole orchard of Eden; it's just that Adam cultivated a few maggots.

Have a nice day.



Watchful eyes: Sightseers look across the bay from Fisherman's Wharf to the bleak prison fortress of Alcatraz



I flew London-San Francisco-Los Angeles-London with Pan American Airways using the Pan Am Fly/Drive in conjunction with Alamo Rent-A-Car. The first-class return fare to either Los Angeles or San Francisco is £2226. The current Apex fare is £420.10 return. Pan Am's fly-drive deal includes a fare element of £400 (details in the new brochure). There is a free car rental scheme operating between Jan 1 and March 31, 1984: telephone 01-409 0688 for details. The Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, double room European-plan £86-£126; Hotel Queen Mary, Long Beach, outside staterooms £50-£60, Winston Churchill suite £183-£316. On the road in the United States I invariably use TraveLodge (part of THF Hotels) who offer middle-of-the-road excellence at budget prices, £22-£36 for a double room – telephone bookings in London on 01-567 3444 or toll-free in the United States on 800 255 3050. For dining exclusively at Ernie's (or similar) in San Francisco, allow £60-£70 for two; but two can eat modestly for £17-£27 with Californian wine. Milage of the described journey 1,300 miles.

Scotching the rumours about the Italians

As another ski season opens, those who keep their eyes on the popularity stakes will have noticed that Austria has once again replaced Italy at the top of the league and become the most favoured destination among British skiers.

This reversal is a little curious, for when it comes to sheer quantity and variety of skiing, Italy far outpaces Austria, where the skiing, for all its excellence, does tend to be very much of a piece. If there is an answer, other than that fashions change, it is probably that British skiers feel that the Austrians are serious about skiing, while the Italians are – how can one put it – just a little laid back.

How much truth there is in this feeling is hard to establish, but it is certainly more than a nasty rumour put about by the envious to do the Italians down.

Last winter, we arrived in the resort of Santa Caterina, to find that although the resort was open, the pistes were still unpisted. Someone had borrowed the Piste Bully rattrack to smarten up some slope for a race. My lift ticket went into the electronic gate-slot all right, but it wouldn't come out again, and the idea of passing the morning tied by the neck to a turnstile isn't much of a turn-on.

I must say that our instructor was charming. With the amount of practice he put in he couldn't help but be charming. On the other hand, an hour's lesson which consisted of 10 minutes skiing and 50 minutes standing about while he chatted-up the female skiers, cooled both my feet and my admiration.

Down the road in Bormio, a very attractive resort, rightly popular with the British, the pistes were in very good condition, and we had a great morning's skiing until the stroke of noon. Then the lifts stopped and stayed stopped for nearly two hours, while all right-minded people stoked up on pasta. Unless, of course, you happened to be at the bottom of some far-distant slope and unable to get back. I'm all for a nice long lunch hour but I do so like to be told.

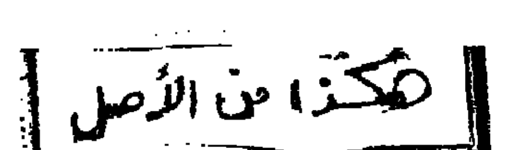
That little hiccup apart, Bormio is a great place for skiing and gives the lie to those nasty rumours that the Italians buy their lift systems fifth-hand, probably from Bulgaria, and service them with several coats of paint. The lifts at Bormio were being serviced regularly, some all the time.

On to the bus then, and off across the pass, to Livigno. Livigno has one Great Good Thing and one Great Bad Thing. The Great Bad Thing is the six-hour transfer time from Milan Airport. The Great Good Thing is that the resort is duty free and therefore awash with cut-price liquor. The skiing takes place on the slopes on either side of the valley, and one has to decide each morning which side of the valley to ski on, for the two are not linked. There is said to be a shuttlebus which roves between the two, but our inquiries for this useful service produced only the response: "*Domani.*" *Domani* has been rightly described as a word having much the same meaning as *mañana*, but without the same sense of urgency. Here too, someone had made off with the Piste Bully.

Our return, by bus and train to Milan, was something of an odyssey. This was yet another surprise because Italy is the country where the trains are said to run on time, as indeed they do. The snag is that they are timed to arrive in any junction just five minutes after the onward connection has departed.

But let me not become sour. It is only fair to add that our visit was in mid-December, at the very start of the season, and no doubt as time went on it all perked up. Besides, the people were friendly, the resorts delightful, the prices less than painful, the food finger-kissin' good, and the sun shone.

Rob Neillands



TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Aloha, hula and goodbye to an Hawaiian odyssey

By 4.30am on the first day the jet lag had won. Unable to sleep, I wandered out onto the terrace of my hotel bedroom and gazed out on Waikiki Beach, that most famous of Pacific resorts. Sixteen floors below the waves rolled in endlessly; I had imagined the surf would be enormous and the noise thunderous, but apparently this was the wrong season. All around the lights of the massive hotel and condominium blocks winked conspiratorially. As I stood breathing in the light sub-tropical night air, I found it hard to believe I was halfway round the world in the middle of the world's biggest ocean.

The journey to Hawaii had been horrendous despite the comforts of the 747. London to San Francisco – 10 hours 45 minutes, three hour stopover; then five and a half hours San Francisco to Honolulu. Add transfers and it's 24 hours door-to-door. And then there's the 12-hour time loss.

Somehow, the islands confirm your worst fears and answer your wildest dreams. Waikiki on the island of Oahu is smart, rich and expensive. The beachside hotels stretch endlessly along a surprisingly narrow strip of sand. Behind the main beach road lies a series of multi-storey shopping precincts selling anything from Cartier jewelry to native carvings and fast food. It is the American dream transported thousands of sea miles to a group or 20 volcanic islands and atolls, once inhabited by Polynesians who did not know the meaning of sin until American missionaries told them what it was.

Sight seeing begins on the beach. All around on that over-exposed strip, enormous whale-like Americans lie recumbent on the sun casting a shadow over slender Japanese neighbours. Gorgeous blondes, male and female, natural and dyed, soak up the ultra-violet. Tanning is a serious business here; outside many of the hotels there are Tanning Information Centers where earnest bronzed youths discuss which cream or lotion to use and how many hours of sun to take on the first day. All shades of colour and race are there. Hawaii claims to be the world's most poly-racial society.

Captain Cook started all that when he discovered the islands on January 18 1778. The carefree people, far from being terrified, extended the traditional *aloha* (literally an affectionate greeting) and welcomed the sailors with open arms. Cook became revered as a god and named the group the Sandwich Islands. A year later he got involved in a little local difficulty and lost his godlike status and his life in an extremely bloody scene on the beach near the now-famous Diamond Head.

Feast of exotic flora and fauna

The great captain left two legacies – trade links with the rest of the civilized world and syphilis, measles and other common ailments that reduced the islands' population from 300,000 in 1780 to 7000 by 1851. Forty years after Captain Cook life changed again. The killjoy American missionaries arrived and made the islanders wear clothes, abandon free love, their religion and any ideas of keeping the islands to themselves. Wave after wave of different nationalities. Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Samoan, Korean, have subsequently contributed to the miscegenation of the Hawaiians.

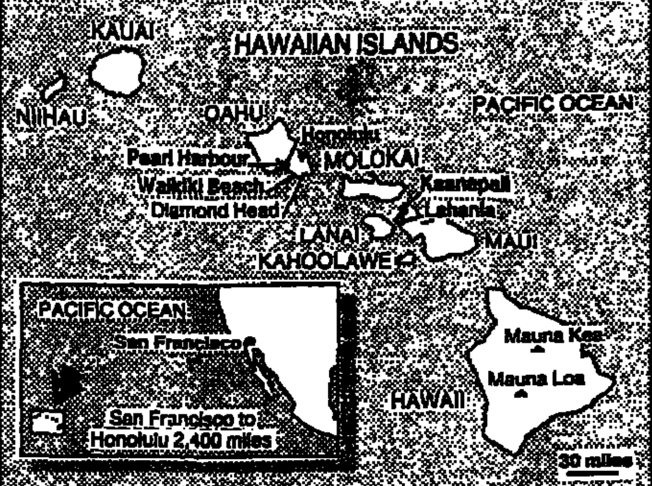
Tearing myself away from gazing with instant love in my heart at some of the more exotic creatures on the beach, I turned to the other attractions of Oahu. Beaches, tepid sea, ski diving, exotic flowers, trees and the American military all abound. Pearl Harbor, home of the US Pacific Fleet and the USS Arizona Memorial, a moving tribute to the men killed on that infamous day when the Japanese Zero fighters roared out of the sun to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting nation. The mandatory Chinatown (Soho's is far more interesting). Enticing cocktails and a friendly but ruthless determination to make you enjoy spending a lot of money very quickly. And of course the incredibly erotic hula dancers.

Three nights later I was not sorry to leave Oahu and head on to some of the other islands. Being American the inter-island air services are fast and efficient. Kauai, the garden isle, has a far smaller population than Oahu (40,000 to 720,000) and despite the modern conveniences it begins to approach my idea of a Pacific island.

On again to Maui, second largest of the islands, created by two massive volcanoes providing spectacular scenery and beauty. I would like to come back here. The town of Lahaina, formerly the royal capital of Hawaii, has been restored and looks as it did 200 years ago when the whaling fleets of the world used it as a convenient and welcoming base. Clapboard houses line its main street, but the shops sell 25 varieties of burger or pizzas now.

The town is conveniently close to the very swish resort of Kaanapali. Luxurious beachside hotels which offer everything from art galleries to hairdressers to delicatessens and ice cream parlours have sprung up here in recent years. Enterprising architects have utilized the attractions of the jungly vegetation and built some of the lobbies around soaring palm trees, fragrant plumeria, frangipani, jacarandas and African tulip trees.

The food and drink in the hotels comes in two varieties – fast food and milk-shakes, American children of all ages love them, and French-American, familiar sounding, gourmet dishes which deceive the eye when served up as giant Texas steaks with a thick packet gravy on top. Steer clear of the French wines; like Europeans they don't travel here well. The Californian produce, especially the Robert Mondavi wines, suit the atmosphere and ambience better.



The whole act is smart. The tourist is cosseted and protected from the outside world. The climate never seems to vary, never gets cold and the shower works every time! An obvious parallel can be drawn with the Caribbean. The weather, beaches and climate are similar but the underlying tension that persists on so many Caribbean islands is absent here. You are not advised to stick to the hotel grounds and you don't come across baton-wielding security men keeping the population at bay. Even the prices are not too dissimilar. Perhaps the only drawback is the over-riding American efficiency of it all.

Refreshed and restored after two days in Maui, I continued my odyssey. Another short flight this time to the big island itself, Hawaii. If Maui provides the relaxation, the big island provides the spectacle. It was formed by five volcanoes of which two, Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, are nearly 14,000ft high and still very active. They descend 18,000ft below the island to the seabed, making them the largest mountains on earth.

It is a curious feeling knowing this when landing on the island. With typical ingenuity and business acumen, the state has built a highway right up to the crater of Mauna Loa. The tourist buses stop outside an hotel and the Volcano Art Center, a mere half a mile away from the massive crater. You can drive from the hotel, park and walk to within 12ft of the rim of the crater which is two miles across. One hundred and fifty feet down lies the hard-baked crust, the cork on top of a pipe of molten rock that stretches down to the earth's core. All around, sulphurous fumes leak from the hard black and grey laval rock. The air is still and fears of sudden, Promethean upheaval prey on the minds of even the most blasé travellers.

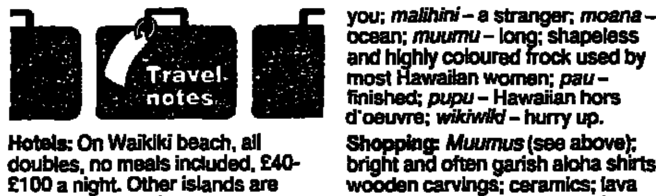
The guides assure you that the seismologists constantly monitor the turbulent forces which exist just a few hundred feet below the ground but for once your confidence in American knowhow is strained.

Every time there is an eruption (the last one was on December 5) the road is covered by lava, so the engineers move in and build yet another bypass. Nothing must interrupt the flow of the tourist dollar.

After that peak the rest of the trip goes steadily downhill. Yes, the 2,000 varieties of the Hawaiian orchids are beautiful, and yes, it is the best pineapple you have ever tasted but the superlatives begin to pall.

Back to Oahu and the excesses of Waikiki Beach to spend the final night eating Japanese food cooked by Korean chefs washed down with American beer. It was, after all, a cosmopolitan journey.

Michael Crozier



Hotels: On Waikiki beach, all doubles, no meals included, £40-£100 a night. Other islands are cheaper, £25 and upwards; there are also guesthouses and simple log cabins which cost no more than £5 a night.

Food: From a 75p hamburger to a gourmet meal at £20 a head including wine; prices roughly comparable to inner London.

Climate: Sunny and warm with temperatures ranging from 75°F in winter to 90F° in summer. The humidity (60 to 70 per cent) is tempered by the near constant trade winds.

Excursions: Many and varied.

Local phrases: "Hang loose" means keep calm and is used at the end of nearly any statement; *haole* – white man; *holoholo* – to visit; *imu* – underground ovens for roasting pigs in for a *luau* – an Hawaiian feast; *Kahuna* – priest or doctor; *kamaaina* – member of long-standing island family; *kane* – a man; *kapu* – keep out; *lei* – garland of flowers; *mahalo* – thank you; *malihini* – a stranger; *moana* – ocean; *muumu* – long; shapeless and highly coloured frock used by most Hawaiian women; *pau* – finished; *pupu* – Hawaiian hors d'oeuvre; *wikiwiki* – hurry up.

Shopping: *Muumus* (see above); bright and often garish aloha shirts; wooden carvings; ceramics; lava products; perfumes from native flowers such as plumeria, gardenia, pikake or ginger; table mats and baskets made from coconut fibres; grass skirts and lava lavas (wrap-around cotton skirts).

Package deal: I asked Hawaiian and American Dream Holidays to cost a package based on my experiences – Apex mid-week economy flight by Pan Am, London to Honolulu return, including all inter-island flights and transfers with two nights at the Sheraton Surfrider, five nights at the Sheraton Maui, two nights at the Kona Hilton on Hawaii and one night at the Plaza Hotel, Waikiki would cost £965. The same deal flying Clipper Class would cost £2,455. Hawaiian and American Dream Holidays, 4 Station Parade, High Street North, London E6 1JD. Tel 01-470 1181. Further information from Hawaii Visitors Bureau, 15 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-492 1143).

Business as usual: Diamond Head looms behind the extraordinarily narrow strip of Waikiki beach

COLLECTING

Wax works thrown into relief

Taste changes mysteriously from year to year, decade to decade and century to century. One of the most significant movements present is a steady upward swing in appreciation of sculpture. Paintings, drawings and prints are still far more expensive than their three-dimensional counterparts, but the gap is beginning to narrow, and the trend seems to be affecting prices across the range of three-dimensional art, from Renaissance bronzes to Victorian sculpture, Rodin and Henry Moore.

One three-dimensional area which has so far been left almost entirely unnoticed by collectors is modelling in wax. A technique first used in ancient Egypt and popular in classical times, its flowering in Europe begins with the Renaissance. Genuine Renaissance models still pass through the sale rooms at around £400 to £700, although exceptional examples can go to around £4,000.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth century there was another great vogue for the medium, most especially for wax portraits in low or high relief. These are reminiscent of the silhouettes so popular at this period but are much more sophisticated and beautiful. They can be found at £20 to £30, while £300 or so should secure a fine one.

Three reference books (vital in steering a course through the rocky seas of collecting) are available, all by Edward Pyke. First came the *Biographical Dictionary of Wax Modellers* (Oxford University Press, 1973). When Mr Pyke decided in 1981 to publish a supplement incorporating new discoveries, the OUP turned him down, so he published it himself. And this month he publishes a second supplement. It will cost £9.50 plus postage and is available from Mr Pyke, 53 Ladbroke Road, London W11.

With charming candour Mr Pyke reveals in his publicity leaflet for this supplement the state of play on the other two volumes: the OUP are still left with 70 copies of the original dictionary; Mr Pyke himself is left with around half the 500 copies he had printed of the first supplement. After a slow start, the books could well turn into collectors' items themselves as the three-dimensional boom gets under way!

Mr Pyke has devoted his retirement to this work. (He retired in 1963 from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, where he had invented and developed braille "printing". He inherited a small collection of waxes from his father and has added to it himself. It currently decorates the walls of his sitting-room. The pieces are mainly small.

The star of the collection is by Samuel Percy (1750-1820), a three-quarter length portrait of Princess Charlotte framed by a red wax curtain. It depicts the Prince Regent's daughter who would have been queen of England had she not died in childbirth in 1817. She is palpitatingly lovely, with softly flushed wax cheeks and a tell tale swelling at the waist of her green and gold wax dress, proving that the portrait was executed in 1817. A Percy was left unsold at Sotheby's last year at £280.

Percy is one of the top names of the period. Another is Isaac Gosset, who generally did head-and-tinted wax. Both were prolific and can be bought quite easily. The same goes for Caspar Hardy, of Cologne, who was their contemporary and modelled little genre scenes as well as portraits.

The most abundantly available of the Renaissance modellers is Antonio Abondio (1539-1591), an expert portraitist who worked for the Emperor Maximilian. Another Italian whose works can be found quite easily is Gaetano Zumbo (1656-1701), who worked in Bologna and specialized in rather grisly anatomical and religious scenes.

Sadly, the popularity of waxes at the turn of the century brought a good many fakes into existence, and it is wise to take advice before spending large sums. And don't hang them over the central heating, because wax melts.

Geraldine Norman

Heading for popularity: Percy's Princess Charlotte; bust by Lecomte; the Rev R. Aspland by Poole

DRINK

Potent Christmas survival kit

If you are filled with horror by the thought that this time next week you will be coping with a house full of over-excited children and difficult elderly relations in addition to making the mince pies, stuffing the turkey and wrapping up those last-minute Christmas presents, take heart. The one way to make certain that the festive fortnight passes by in a blissful blur is to lay in sufficient stocks of the perfect Christmas survival kit – wine.

It may be too late by now to persuade your local wine merchant to deliver, but the choice at your nearest off-licence or supermarket will still be sufficiently wide to cope with all those taxing festivities.

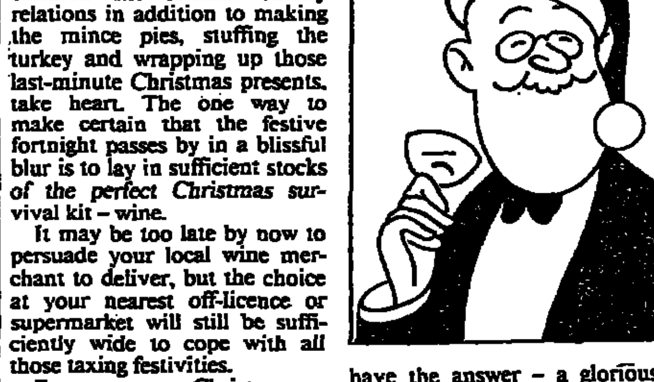
Everyone uses Christmas as an excuse to drop by unannounced and the simplest method of entertaining them is to ensure that your fridge and sideboard are already well-stocked with bottles. A screw-top bottle of the peachy, honied Muscat de Beaumes de Venise (Sainsbury's £4.25) can be kept in the fridge throughout the holiday; a chilled glass served with mince pies either mid-morning or mid-afternoon always goes down well, especially with maiden aunts, the vicar and friends with sweet tooths.

For those with drier and more demanding tastes, a good bottle of any pungent, nutty, bone-dry Sercial such as Lomelino's Sercial is ideal (Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, London EC3, £6.85): this fortified wine can also stay in the fridge for days without coming to any harm.

If space in your fridge is at a premium, try one of these Christmas sideboard standbys: Gonzalez Byass have an excellent old bottled sherry in their rich, sweet old Oloroso – Mautusalem – which is perfect with Christmas pudding or at tea-time with the cake if you are finding your relations especially hard work. (La Vigneronne, 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, £5.60). Cherry brandy is another old favourite that warms everyone up after church and also makes a good warming noggin for carol singers and hunt-followers, (Oddbins, £4.70).

On the big day itself the quickest way of making Christmas feel like Christmas is to start with champagne. Sainsbury's flowery and full-bodied Dry Champagne (£5.95) came top in *The Times* recent champagne tasting and would make a splendid morning tipple. A cheap alternative would be to buy a bottle of Crème de Fraises de Bois (Cullens £3.95), pour a teaspoonful into the bottom of each glass and top it up with the cheapest, driest, sparkling wine that you can get at your off-licence. It produces a delicious pale pink sparkling wine with a bouquet of wild strawberries.

Relatives and friends always seem to turn up late on Christmas Day, so an aperitif that can double up as a first-course wine is a good idea. That tangy Lomelino Sercial would be ideal, for it is a perfect match for a soup or any other starter. If you would prefer not to lead off with a fortified wine or are starting with a delicate fish dish that you feel would be swamped by madeira, Marks & Spencer have the answer – a glorious, rich, green, buttery '81 Chablis from Rémy le Fort, a bargain at just £3.99.




It always seems rather a pity to serve good claret or burgundy with turkey: the meat itself is not difficult to match but few wines can survive the rigours of cranberry sauce, strong herb stuffings and the like. The Rhône is a good source of those robust red wines that can and Tesco's up-and-coming wine department have a smashing rich, spicy and stylish single domaine '81 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Arnevels from J. R. Quiot, that could easily handle the festive bird and trimmings as well as the stilton. It is also priced at a temptingly low £3.99.

If you feel like going to the other extreme and splashing out on a superb wine that none of your guests will have ever tasted before then the intense grassy, blackcurranty fruit of Tasmania's splendid '81 Moorilla Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is a worthwhile indulgence, (Les Amis du Vin, 7 Ariel Way, Wood Lane, London W12, £12.55).

Christmas pudding served with brandy butter is another hopelessly difficult festive dish to match with wine: that old bottled sherry, Matusalem, could just about cope, as could Blandy's Ten Year Old Madeira, with its rich, soft, raising charms (Hedges & Butler, 153 Regent Street, London, SW1 £9.50).

Jane MacQuitty

Manorial mystery with a happy twist

Who would have solved the murder of Castle Combe? Would it have been Miss Marple, invited, fortuitously, by some long-lost friend to stay in this suspiciously perfect limestone village in north Wiltshire? Or Hercule Poirot, called in by Battle of the Yard to pose as a guest at the manor house, where we ourselves were staying for the weekend?

The manor house, let me explain, is now an hotel and lies just a minute's walk from the market cross of Castle Combe, which has been called the prettiest village in England. The cross sill bears the grooves where the medieval bowmen sharpened their arrows. There is a convivial village pub, a babbling village brook, the Bye, and within the picturesque village church lies the thirteenth-century tomb of Sir Walter de Dunstanville, who built the castle, now defunct.

The hotel is mostly seventeenth and eighteenth century and with its oak-panelled walls and enormous open fireplace it is every inch the scene of a Christie crime – Styles, perhaps, or Chimmneys. In the lounge an Italian frieze 200 years old commemorates Skakespeare's Falstaff, who may have been based on Sir John Fastolf, Lord of Castle Conbe and friend of Bolingbroke.



Ideal setting: the picturesque village of Castle Combe

There are circular staircases and beamed ceilings; and in the 26 acres of garden and parkland surrounding the house we joined the partridge and pheasants for a walk, among hedgerows thick with old man's beard and white bryony.

It was a magnificient place to stay, but we had an ulterior motive for our visit. It was the night of the Alsatian Banquet.

Allow me to paint the scene in Dame Agatha's colours: the guests gathering in the dining hall with its flickering candles and huge landscape, sizing one another up; Oliver Clegg, owner of the hotel, looking every inch the lord of the manor in his immaculate white dinner jacket, placing his guests with gentlemanly skill; and in the kitchen Marc Decker, the young Alsatian guest chef, putting the finishing touches to his salmon and scallop salad, tasting the sauce grelette, flavouring with celery his oyster and mussel chowder, choosing his time....

Course after course we ate, each more succulent than the last. Snails in puff pastry with pernod, herbs and cream; a mousse of trout and crayfish; a sumptuous sorbet; lamb in fresh basil butter sauce. And of the five wines only the (excellent) Chateauneuf-du-Pape was at all suspicious, for it alone did not come from Alsace.

After the banquet, in the bar, we probed each other's reasons for coming to Castle Combe. For most, gluttony. For some, curiosity. But what of the flamboyant Dutchman buying doubles while his wife sat by the fire, silently reading her *Horse and Hounds*? And what to make of the overheard phrase: "There's evil at the heart of this village"?

We spent the night in a four-poster bed and from our huge windows there were good English views next morning over manicured lawns and woodlands beyond. Coffee, the Sunday papers, breakfast and a five-mile hike set us up for an English lunch of which even Marc Decker, now released from his labours, approved.

There was no crime at Castle Combe that weekend, but I think we discovered its secret. The place, quite simply, has style.

Peter Brown



The wines we drank were from the House of Dopff and Irion, of Alsace, and were shipped by J. B. Reynier, of London. Marc Decker is employed by Dopff and Irion. The Manor House Hotel, one of the Best Western group, lies between the M4 and the A420, six miles from Chippenham, a two and a half hour drive from London. A four-poster double bedroom is normally £68 a night, a single room £30, but winter breaks can be taken until April, 1984, at £65 per person for a two-night stay, dinner included. Tel 0249 782206.

Languedoc's legacy of little English pies

There are about 6,000 Piscenois, as the inhabitants of Pézenas are called, and they are proud of their town. When Armand de Bourbon, Prince de Conti, lived there it was called the Versailles of Languedoc. That seems to be going rather far, though they did have a bright young actor-manager there in those days, Molière. The courtyards of the gentlemen's houses in the Renaissance quarter make good open-air theatres.

The old part, going back to the Middle Ages, is almost unspoilt. The streets are too narrow for serious traffic, and one can spend a happy afternoon strolling around. A few arty-crafty shops have sprung up, open only in summer, but most of the tourists from Tokyo and Dusseldorf press on in their air-conditioned coaches to Carcassonne, that Disneyland of Viollet-le-Duc.

The main road goes through the nineteenth-century quarter, and the average motorist is ignorant of the treasures hidden two minutes' walk away. Until a few years ago drivers were more preoccupied with the famous Pézenas traffic jam, which the inhabitants would bring out their chairs to watch – for this in the road to the Costa Brava. They have lost this source of amusement since the motorway was finished, so they turn their chairs the other way and watch the game of *tambourin*.

This is played on a 100yd-long car-park, and is a sort of five-a-side tennis without a net. The rackets are like big tambourines without bells. The solid rubber ball makes a most satisfying clonk when a master-player sends it high into the air. In France the game is played only in a 25-mile radius of Pézanas, but some parts of Italy know it too, and every year there is an international match.

On the outskirts there are some agreeable châteaux. One of them, Loubatières, was the favourite hunting-lodge on Ninon de Lenclos, that elegant pin-up of the seventeenth century. A later visitor was the Cardinal de Bernis, known to readers of Casanova's memoirs as having been broad-minded about sharing the favours of the beautiful nuns M. M. and C. C. in nights of Venetian frolic.

Clive of India rented another of these châteaux in 1766 for a spell of rest and recuperation, and – to come to the point – left his mark on Pézenas in a strange and durable way.

There are a lot of pastry-shops in the town. In their windows, among the fruit tarts and éclairs, there are things that look like small pork pies. They are the shape of cotton-reels, about 2in high and an inch and a half in diameter, and are called *petits pâtés de Pézenas*. They are meant to be eaten warm, at the beginning of a meal. The outside is made of hot-water raised-pie pastry. The filling is: four parts soft brown sugar, two parts minced mutton, one part mutton suet, one part beef suet and some grated lemon peel.

Yes, it's the original English mince pie, somewhat simplified. Our 1891 Mrs Beeton wants you to include some lean beef, raisins, currants, candied peel and brandy. But she says that people are beginning to prefer a meatless pie, to be served as a pudding or for tea. Later editions only give the familiar decadent version, with no nourishing mutton fat.

Milord Clive brought his own cook with him to Pézenas, gave tasty suppers to the locals, and started a tradition. His little English pie, in 200 years, has not spread further afield than the *tambourin* district, where, however, it is difficult to avoid.

A good place, Pézenas. As for its speciality, which left England two centuries ago to resurface in the pastry-shops of the Cours Jean-Jaurès, the town's tourist leaflet can have the last word: "The taste of the *petits pâtés* will astound the gastronome".

They're dead right.

John P. Harris

The French Tourist Office is at 179 Piccadilly, London W1 (493 2448).

VALUES/Beryl Downing on gifts with lasting value

Investment in a present with a future

The cost of giving often has nothing whatever to do with the price. Some of the least expensive and most enchanting presents are the result of hours of consideration which cost a good deal more than mere cash. But while running over your own gifts with a geiger counter and a pocket calculator is not recommended by the best etiquette books, there is no reason, if you are choosing a present for someone else, why you should not make sure that it is of lasting value. So here is a selection of presents that could well have an investment value – possibly in terms of money and certainly in terms of pleasure.

Wisdom of choosing pearls

In the past 13 years pearls have increased in value more than diamonds, according to Mikimoto, the originators of the cultured pearl. A strand which cost £25 in 1970 would cost £200 today and Mikimoto can show you every size in every colour. Always try pearls against your skin before buying: you may think you want white, but pink (for blondes) or gold (for brunettes) may look much better.

The latest idea is to match necklaces with watch bracelets in pearl and turquoise or pearl and coral (from about £400). For those who already have pearl necklaces, detachable droppers are available from £40. Jewellers who stock Mikimoto will tailor-make to order. For local stockists contact Mikimoto Pearls, 20-24 Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, London EC2 (01-831 8518).

It is almost impossible to tell cultured pearls from natural pearls without an X-ray, but you can tell beads from cultured pearls by their comparative lack of lustre. Or rub them across the edge of your teeth: cultured pearls will feel textured, fake ones quite smooth. The qualities to look for are lustre, colour, size and shape, which should, all be well matched in the same necklace.

Investing in modern jewelry means selecting a highly individual style that has more to offer than passing fashion. A designer with a most distinctive style is Elizabeth Gage, whose charming cottage studio at the back of 25 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-589 2706) provides a delightful un-shop-like ambience in which to discuss settings for stones you already have, or to choose something entirely new.

Elizabeth Gage believes in going straight to the top – her first collection after training as a goldsmith was for Cartier in 1964. She loves opulent and dramatic jewelry and is strongly influenced by Viking and Byzantine styles – the many-stranded choker illustrated can be made in pearls, amethysts, sodalite (like lapis lazuli), garnets, cornelians, coral or, particularly effectively, in black onyx and white bone. Rings are her forte – big and bold with unusual stones – and she also loves enamelling: a range of zodiac rings is enamelled in brilliant colours with the symbols in 18-carat gold (about £673).

The magnificent bracelet illustrated is her own – something similar could be commissioned, but Elizabeth Gage perfers making one of a kind and, apart from the smaller pieces, will never make more than about nine of anything – each piece numbered, documented and signed.

Dramatic designs: Elizabeth Gage's amethyst and silver choker £748; 18ct gold bracelet £4,600; turquoise and 18ct gold ring £828. Inset: Mikimoto pearl and gold necklet £275, with clip-on pendant £120; twin drop pendant £49.50; pearl and diamond pendant £75.

Textiles full of Eastern promise

Since the price of genuine Persian rugs has become prohibitive collectors are looking at other oriental textiles and particularly at the collections shown by Joss Graham at 10 Eccleston Street, London SW1. He has been travelling India and the Far East for 12 years to indulge his passion for textiles.

Prices for hangings are from £60 to £900, but there are also small items, scarves, purses, etc, from £4.

Collectors of nomadic rugs may also like to see the Tapis de Terre woven by an obscure tribe in the Atlas Mountains and imported, as far as they know exclusively, by the Kilim Warehouse, 28a Pickets Street, London SW12 (01-675 3122). The rugs, made of tightly woven straw with woven wool decoration, were originally for the floors of tents. One 10ft by 5ft for your floor would be around £100.

A picture of abstraction

I first saw Judy Sale's pictures at John Cullen's lighting studio at 1 Woodfall Court, Smith Street, London SW3. The power of the large, swirling abstract oils with a feeling of sky or sea or sand made an immediate impact, and when I met her it was a pleasure to find that she is also an extremely efficient businesswoman. "So many people think they are going to be discovered and they ain't, so one needs to be professional in every way", she says. Having spent some time as an interior designer she is always inspired by colour and likes to create



Carolling cats: Miniature etching 'The First Noel' by Maggie Burley from Grafitti: £18.40 plus 50p p & p

paintings specifically for the surroundings in which they will be hung.

Already popular in Canada and America, she has only had one exhibition in this country. When she becomes better known, prices, which now range from £300 to £1,000, are bound to rise, so this is a very good time to consider her work. Private viewings can be arranged by appointment at The Old School House, Crown Lane, Ludgershall, Andover, Hampshire SP11 9RU (0264 790860).

Charlotte Campbell-Davys is so incensed at the outrageous prices charged for prints of no investment value at all that she has started to sell original paintings from her own house at 42 Jubilee Place, London SW3 (01-352 1203). She has about 120 watercolours, oils, and drawings from £15 to £350, framed. The great advantage of this setting is that you can see how the pictures look in a home, rather than in the unfurnished surroundings of a gallery and the collection is sufficiently varied for everyone to find something to their taste.

"I'd be worried if anyone walked out without liking something, although I don't mind a bit if they walk out without buying", she says. Her suggestion for an investment buy? A £15 cartoon by Ellen Mcauslan, a young artist who is tipped to go far.

Discriminating buyers don't necessarily have to spend a great deal in order to get a good investment. An exhibition at postage-stamp to postcard size, prices from £5 to £30. Frames available on the spot. The

the New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes (01-748 8850), on until January 14, includes watercolours and oils by established and lesser-known artists at prices from £50 to £1,000 – notable names are Sir Hugh Casson, Bernard Dunstan, Sickert, Ruskin Spear, Gilbert Spencer and Carel Weight.

Alternatively you could visit Graffiti's fourth exhibition of miniature prints, including original works by 50 artists from Britain, Europe, Japan, North America and the Middle East. The prints range from

exhibition is at 30 James Street, London W1 (01-486 7647) until Christmas Eve.

Liberty's enchanting Victorian Christmas Emporium in the basement offers beautiful period lace by Lunns Antiques, fine antique oriental embroideries collected by Marilyn Garrow and a selection of beautiful nineteenth-century Japanese prints. The latter have been collected by Percy Barkes, owner of the Japanese Print Shop in York. He started to specialize seven years ago and now has the most comprehensive collection of woodcuts in the country.

"Lots of people know more about the prints than I do", he says modestly. "I only buy because of the image. I would rather have something easily available and beautiful than rare and ugly."

The results are impressive. The prints are in remarkably good condition and prices at the lower end are no more than modern reproductions, £20-£65, with a few items over £1,000.

They include the dramatic and colourful actor and warrior prints by Yoshitora, Toyokuni II and Kunichika and the work of the most famous Japanese landscape artists of the 19th century, Hokusai and Hiroshige.

There is a finite number of such prints, so in a few years they will be even more difficult to find. In the meantime the Japanese Print Shop is at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 1234), or you can find Peter Barkes at 38 Petergate, York (0904 51080).

Flower boxes and glass globes

Collectors of boxes will not be able to resist the exhibition at Argenta Gallery, 82 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-584 1841). Richard Kell, whose work is new to the gallery, makes superbly crafted jewel boxes in African blackwood ornamented with silver or red anodized aluminium hinges. The one shown second from left above is for rings and has three stacking boxwood trays which go inside. It costs £110.

Mathew Warwick's boxes are already collector's pieces. Particularly ingenious is the one shown below (left), made in applewood in the shape of an apple. It has a removable stalk containing a miniature jigsaw of an apple tree, with one "missing" apple-shaped piece hidden in a tiny secret compartment (£92). Above are two of his flower-shaped boxes in African blackwood. The sunflower on the left costs £195. The convulvulus (third from left) has a moonstone "dewdrop" and contains a silver thimble (£225).

Modern glass is one of the most exciting and rapidly developing crafts and connoisseurs will be glad to know that one of the best glass galleries in the country, Coleridge of Highgate, has opened a central London gallery at 192 Piccadilly, W1.

The work of about 50 glassblowers is on show – the widest selection of contemporary British glass anywhere in the world – and it includes every glass-forming technique. Prices of collectable names are from £50 but you can find attractive pieces from as little as £5. Shown above (right) is a vase by William Walker (£27.50). Pauline Solven's rocking globe, "Arezzo Light" (below right) is £345.



Sale of the century

Investment objects specifically for men are difficult, unless they are collectors and then you run the danger of duplication. But cricketers might like the reissue of the plate commemorating W. G. Grace's "firsts" – 1,000 runs and 100 centuries, both of which he reached in 1895. By Coalport in an edition of 750, numbered and certificated, the 9in plate costs £44.50 (the original 1895 versions make around £1,000 at auction). Available from Nubern Products, PO Box 79, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2BQ.

Or invest in a little style with Cartier's new Must fountain pen. In burgundy lacquer and gold plate it costs £155 from Cartier, 175 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 6962). The range also includes a ball-point pen.

Fun and games

Everybody needs to invest in a little peace and quiet at Christmas, so here is my final suggestion: Mandala, the most ingenious board game of the season. Invented by three young men, Steve Atkinson, and Derek and Allan Baxter, it is the best-designed game I have seen. It is made of movable plastic circles, each segmented in a different colour. You move the circles according to the numbers you throw on the five correspondingly coloured dice and the aim is not only to move your counters to the centre, but also to block your opponent's path. All the best games bring out the worst in the players – this one has also brought a £2,000 design prize for its creators. It costs £9.95 from the Design Centre Shop, 28 Haymarket, London W1 (01-839 8000)

In search of silver linings

Serious collectors with investment-size bank balances will do their shopping in Bond Street. Francis and Toni Raeymaekers, at 2 Old Bond Street, London W1, offer early and rare English silver as well as Georgian and Victorian pieces and old Sheffield plate. Prices are from £50 to £60,000, but you can find an attractive art nouveau-style photo frame for about £13.

S. & J. Phillips at 139 New Bond Street, London W1, are specialists in antique silver, jewelry and objets d'art. Established in 1860 and still owned by the same family, the company has one of the finest collections in the world of eighteenth-century snuff boxes. Prices are from £300 for a small silver vinaigrette and from £500 for jewelry.

IN THE GARDEN

Beauty bush and eye paint on the side

The Times Garden Project in Fulham, west London, enters its fifth month with the selection of some colourful border shrubs and suitable roses

Most of the planting in the back border has been done, and it is now a question of completing the two side shrubberies. It is in these beds that colour and variety can be introduced. The owner has requested some roses, and I intend to add these to the front of one of the borders so that the colour can be appreciated from the terrace or from the grass. None of the plants used here need be very tall. Once the hut will be covered with the viburnum and other plants on this side will produce a screen to help.

Berberis Julianae is evergreen and the leaves turn red in the autumn. It is about 6ft high when mature. *Berberis verruculosa* is another beauty, about 4ft high but with arching branches, and has better flowers than the *Julinane*. *Buddleia x Weyeriana* Golden Globe is a fine flowering shrub, with masses of golden globes of flower which are well scented. It will reach 6ft or more and it has a somewhat untidy habit. *Choisya ternata*, the Mexican Orange Blossom, has shiny evergreen leaves and white, scented flowers.

The plumes of pampas grass flowers are a joy from autumn into early winter and these will reach 6ft or more. *Cortadieria argentea* Sunningdale Silver is the form I prefer. A daphne which will fit into these shrubberies is the form *D odora variegata*, sometimes called *Aureo marginata*. The leaves have margins of white and the flowers, although not as plentiful as mezereum, are delightfully scented.

Colour can be supplied by the hardy fucsias; Mre Popple or *F Ricccartonii* are tried and tested, but there are many others equally as good. Hydrangeas are good summer shrubs, producing in masses of flowers once established and growing well. *Hibiscus syriacus* is the hardy hibiscus and well worth a spot in any garden.

Poncirus trifoliata, the Japanese Bitter Orange, produces small orange-like fruits in the autumn. Sweetly scented white flowers precede the fruits. This plant will need protection from cold winds and, as it is spiny, should be planted one row back from the front of the border.

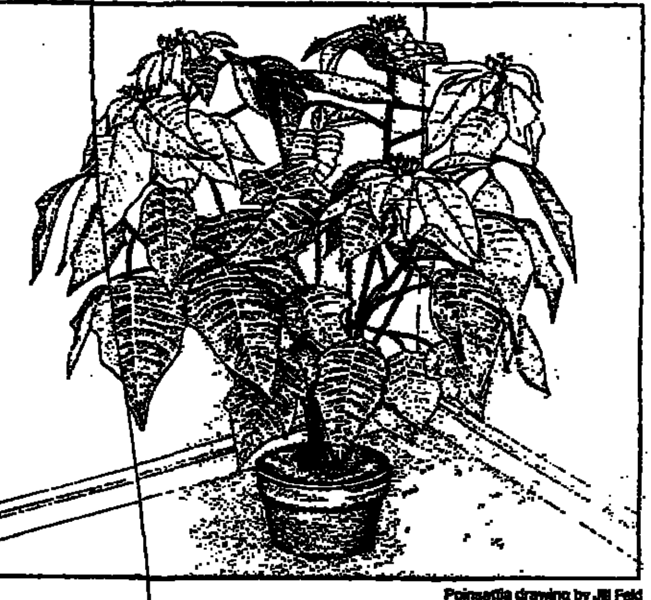
Viburnums flower well and many of the plants are sweetly scented. *Viburnum x Carlcephalum* is about 6ft high, is quite vigorous and has masses of white, scented flowers in the late spring. *V Carlesii* is smaller and I often consider this one of the best of all scented shrubs. It has white flowers in the spring on a bush which is not over vigorous.

I would also recommend the Beauty Bush, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, which has beautifully formed pale pink flowers on a bush which can be up to 6ft high.

Back to roses, for garden decoration I prefer the floribundas and these are many and varied. Choosing colours is bound to be a matter for personal taste, but a few to consider would be : Eye Paint, which has single scarlet flowers with a white eye; Trumpeter, with orange-scarlet flowers; Dearest, which is a beautiful shade of pink; Korresia, in my opinion the best yellow; Arthur Bell, which opens yellow but pales to cream with age; and Iceberg and Isis, two good whites.

Once planting has been completed, it will be necessary to fork over the ground and make sure the plants are all secure. A mulch of organic matter will then be desirable to help retain moisture in the ground and keep down competition from weeds.

Ashley Stephenson



Poinsettia drawing by Jill Feld

Christmas charmers that hate the cold

A symbol of Christmas, the poinsettia, is available in large numbers in shops and garden centres at this time of year. And it sometimes seems that there are few homes that don't have one to brighten them up.

Euphorbia pulcherrima, as it is properly called, has been greatly improved over the years. There are now many good varieties and today the plant has an increased indoor life with bigger and more highly coloured bracts.

It is not usually possible for the amateur to grow a poinsettia on from one year to the next and keep the plant's popular red bracts. But if it is kept it should produce an attractive green foliage which will grow well enough to fill a large corner.

Poinsettias should be kept where the temperature is as near as possible to 65°. If they are grown in good light and not overwatered, the plants will remain in good condition for at least three months and some can last as long as six months. Poor light will result in the leaves loosing their rich light-green colouring; some will turn yellow and others will drop, giving the plant a chlorotic look. If this is allowed to continue, the plant is left with leafless stems and only a few bracts near the tips.

Overwatering can be fatal. Once the flowers have been formed and are open they need to be kept moist but never wet. If the plant shows signs of any deficiencies, then feeding with one of the good all-purpose indoor plant foods may be needed.

When buying a poinsettia it is important to remember to get it from someone who has a warm, well-appointed plant area, as these plants are easily affected by cold.

Pool hygiene

Unless you have taken the precaution of netting your garden pool during the autumn, now is the time to remove all the fallen leaves from it, including any that have sunk to the bottom. Trim pool plants which are dying back. No dead plant material should be left in the water over winter.

Maintain the level of the pool by adding fresh water if necessary. It should never be allowed to freeze over entirely. You can avoid the necessity of breaking a hole in the ice every morning in cold weather by having a ball floating on the surface which, except in very cold conditions, should keep a patch ice-free. Small shallow pools can be protected by covering them with boards or hessian. This should be removed as soon as the temperature rises.

Vigorous vines

Outdoor vines are more popular now than they have been for many years and they may be grown equally well under glass. Pruning, which may take place between mid-December and mid-January is the same whether the vines are indoors or out. But they must be completely dormant before any serious cutting is carried out.

Depending on the vigour of the vine, there may be one, two or three rods or branches. Prune each rod as though it were a single plant. The soft growing tip should be reduced, and if it is an established plant, it can be cut back to the same place as last year. Only one shoot should be allowed to develop from here during the summer. The laterals – the branches which develop at intervals from the vine rods – should be about 18in apart, and during the dormant winter period they should be cut back to one or two buds.

Make sure that you always use a good pair of secateurs and that any cuts are made cleanly with as little bruising to the shoots as possible. If the wood is too thick for a clean secateur cut use a pair of loppers. Finally, remember to remove all the prunings and indeed all the fallen leaves from the vine house, to help prevent disease.

Winter wonder

The big sorbus family of trees varies from medium to quite large sizes. They are nearly all interesting and of good value for the garden. For the connoisseur, one of these trees which is both interesting and able to fit almost all gardens is *Sorbus Acuparia* Beissneri.

This tree is in the rowan section and has a similar shape and habit to this excellent berrying tree. At this time of year, when all the leaves have fallen, the branches are clearly visible. During the winter, particularly when the sun is shining, the bark is a distinctive pinkish orange and can be seen for long distances. The Beissneri is an upright tree with the branches assuming a vase-like shape. It does not grow very quickly, but it will eventually reach 25ft or more depending upon the conditions. In the autumn the leaves turn a rich yellow colour before falling.

The Beissneri does flower and fruit though not particularly well. It prefers a cool moist situation and does not like dry ground. Sometimes the tree will die back completely, usually when there is a dry spell in the summer or spring, but dry sandy soils will produce the same symptoms.

Sorbus Acuparia can be rather difficult to obtain, but it is listed by Hilliers of Winchester at about £18 a tree. Prices of individual specimens will vary.

Sorbus Cuparia

Decorative tricks to turn the table into a feast for the eye



Christmas is the time to take more than usual trouble to make the table look attractive. But there's no need for it to become a chore, or cost the earth.

Basics first: decide on the overall colour scheme for napkins, crackers, flowers, candles and so on, one which compliments your best dinner service. Gold, silver, white, dark green and red are the traditional colours, but the more adventurous could try teaming pink with silver and dark green, ice blue with white, or gold with orange and green.

Keep the same colours and the same theme throughout. Designer Pam Woods has used flowers and bows like those in her traditional centrepiece (immediate right) to glamorize an inexpensive cracker and an unusually-folded napkin. Her flowers are crêpe paper, dipped in wax (from slowly melting down old candles) to give crispness. Carefully stored they could be used year after year and with holly or ivy added they form an easy table centre.

As an alternative, loosely-rolled strips of kitchen foil, pinched together at one end to make flower shapes could be used. Carry through the silver theme by covering table mats in kitchen foil.

Another of Pam's quick ideas is to spray nuts, fruit and dried flower heads with silver or gold paint. After spraying, which should be done outside or in an outhouse, pile the gilded fruit and nuts into a bowl or basket. Crumpled foil or tissue underneath will give added bulk and height. Flowers can be arranged in a vase.

Andrew Hardy of Harvey Nichols created a more modern table centrepiece (above, far right) using decorations from their Christmas Shop and a grid tray from the household department. His idea takes only minutes to put together and is easily copyable using your own decorations.

An edible centrepiece has lots of appeal. You may be full of turkey and Christmas pudding, but there is usually room for the odd sweet or piece of fruit. Cookery broadcaster and writer Mary Berry always has a pyramid of satsumas or tangerines on show. She uses a white and gold Sèvres cake stand – a family heirloom – but any plain white stand would do. Glossy bay or laurel leaves arranged round the edge of the plate form a base. The satsumas are then piled into a pyramid with sprigs of holly to fill the gaps.

A sophisticated fruity frill involves packing a very large wine glass or brandy balloon with silver baubles and frosted grapes.

To frost the grapes, brush small clusters with lightly beaten egg, dredge them with caster sugar, then leave to dry on a wire rack.

Marzipan fruits are traditional Christmas fare. If time is short, you could buy a selection from a good baker or confectioner, but as they require no cooking making them is an ideal pre-Christmas pastime for the children.

To make 25 to 30 fruits you need a 250g (8.82oz) packet of marzipan; yellow, green, orange, red and brown food colourings; cloves; an artist's brush and a nutmeg grater. Divide the marzipan into three, and knead green, orange or yellow colouring into each third.

Make the green marzipan into apple shapes and paint on a rosy glow with the red colouring. Use a clove for the top and stalk. Shape the orange marzipan into balls and roll them over the nutmeg grater to give an orange peel effect: again use a clove for the stalk. Shape bananas from the yellow marzipan and paint on brown markings.

Put the fruits into paper sweet-cases, pile on a stand or plate, or put them into a basket lined with tissue paper and decorated with sprigs of holly.

Lynn Barnett

Pam Woods' table centre (far left) is made from two cut lampshade rings with red Offray velvet tubing threaded on, then arranged at right angles. Bows made from 22mm-wide red Offray picot-edge taffeta ribbon hold the rings in place. To make a flower, cut four petals from white crêpe paper, bind artificial stamens (from craft shops) to a wire stem, then bind on each petal. Frill the edges before dipping the flower in candle wax. Drill hazel nuts and insert a thickish wire; spray them and the ivy flower heads gold. Secure in a block of flower-arranging foam placed in the centre of the rings.

To make Harvey Nichols centrepiece (above) push three white candles into a large block of flower-arranging foam placed on the red grid tray (£6.75). Pierce each red and white glittery bauble with an icicle decoration and push these too into the foam. Arrange half a length of white tinsel between the baubles and candles and beneath the tray.

The middle centrepiece uses Price's Chelsea perfumed candles set at various heights on a silver gallery tray, combined with green and black grapes and leaves. The candles, in 15 fragrances cost £1.09 and £2.65.

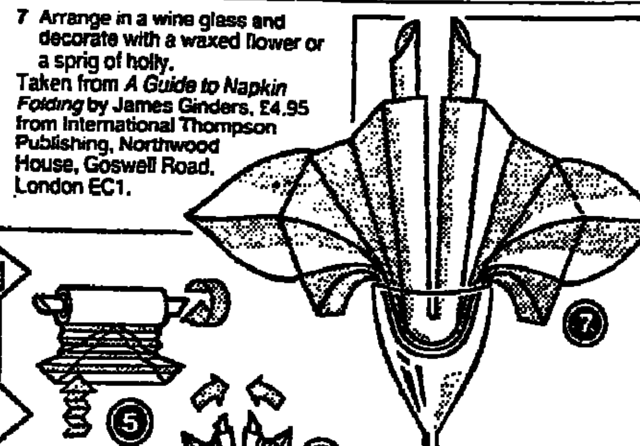
Neat Napkin

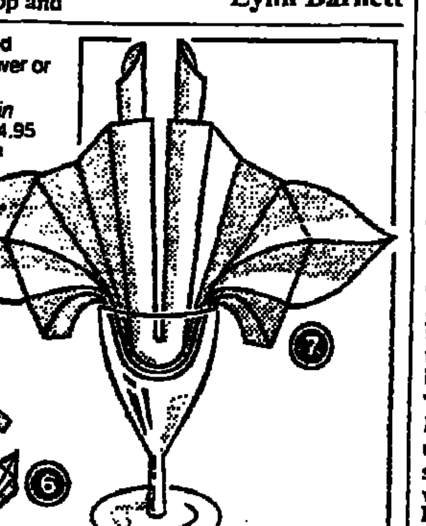
An attractively folded napkin like the one illustrated here is very quick and easy to do. Although it looks best if you use linen napkins, large thick paper ones will create almost the same effect.

1 Lay the napkin flat.
2 Fold edges A and C to centre line B.
3 Crease across dotted line as shown.
4 Fold out the four corners.
5 Tightly roll the napkin from the top of the centre line and pleat the remainder.
6 Fold in half.
7 Arrange in a wine glass and decorate with a waxed flower or a sprig of holly.

Taken from *A Guide to Napkin Folding* by James Ginders, £4.95 from International Thompson Publishing, Northwood House, Goswell Road, London EC1.

David Hart





REVIEW Video cassettes

Glimpses behind the mask of a master clown

The Gentleman Tramp (1974, 72 mins)/Sunnyside (1919, 18 mins) PolyGram, £33
Unknown Chaplin (1983, 156 mins) Thorn EMI, £37.50

For once we have a subject that video does proud. Not only are most of the best Chaplin films available on cassette – the early one and two-reelers as well as the features – but there are now two worthwhile and complementary documentaries on his life and work.

The Gentleman Tramp, made in the United States and narrated by Walter Matthau, is a straightforward introduction, useful both for those coming upon Chaplin for the first time and as a refresher course for the initiated. It summarizes Chaplin's career up to that embarrassing episode of the special Oscar in 1971 and provides generous extracts from the films.

Without pressing the point too far, the cassette links life and art by showing how the films were often rooted in personal experience. Thus *The Kid* refers back to Chaplin's childhood in the London slums of Kennington and *A King in New York* reflects, with less subtlety and more bitterness, his treatment by the American authorities which led to his exile in Switzerland. The tape has the bonus of the 1919 two-reeler, *Sunnyside*.

While *The Gentleman Tramp* is an assembly of mainly familiar material, *Unknown Chaplin* includes much that has never been shown in public before, as well as rare interviews with Lita Grey, Chaplin's second wife, and two of his leading ladies, Georgia Hale from *The Gold Rush* and Virginia Cherrill of *City Lights*.

Originally transmitted as a three-part series by Thames Television, *Unknown Chaplin* came about through Lady Chaplin making her film vaults available to those indefatigable cine-archaeologists, Kevin Brownlow and David Gill. With the American collector Raymond Rohauer also yielding up much unseen material, Brownlow and Gill found themselves with a treasure-house of rushes, out-takes, complete sequences shot, cut but never used, and home movies.

What emerges from their expert compilation is a surprising endorsement of Edison's view that genius is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration. Chaplin worked out his films as he went along, having no script and relying on his talent and intuition to carry him through. Often the ideas would not come, and the results were endless retakes of the same scene, gags elaborately worked out and then abandoned and actors and crews standing by for days, weeks and even months waiting for the little man's creativity to return.

The cassette is most revealing about *City Lights*. At one stage, of 534 days scheduled for shooting, 368 had been idle. Halfway through Chaplin fired Virginia Cherrill and started all over again with Georgia Hale, only to recall Cherrill (at twice the salary) when he realized that the project was too far advanced. He also spent much time and effort shooting a seven-minute routine that was to have opened the film before deciding not to use it.

These insights into Chaplin at work only serve to re-whet the appetite for the finished article. Titles available (all on PolyGram, prices £33 to £37.50) include *The Gold Rush, The Circus, City Lights, Modern Times, The Great Dictator, Monsieur Verdoux* and *Limelight*, with *A Woman of Paris* due next year.

Peter Waymark

Next week: Video round-up of 1983



Chaplin and his leading lady Cherrill: He fired and rehired her during the shooting of City Lights

Graphic designs on the birds and bees

Learning to Love with Marje Proops (60 mins) Video Space, £19.95
Having a Baby (108 mins) BBC Video, £41.95
The New Good Birth Guide by Sheila Kitzinger (120 mins) Palace Video, £19.95

Most aspects of life are already covered by video. So it may come as no surprise that you can now learn to hatch and match, though not, as yet, to dispatch.

"Learning to love and finding out about the facts of life is not always easy", says Marje Proops at the start of her version of the birds and bees. More agony granny than aunt, she introduces us to Janet and John, two cartoon characters who marry while young and ignorant, and end up sending her anxious letters about sex.

The video describes the changes of puberty and the processes of reproduction with the help of some anaemic graphics. Anxieties are allayed all round, though several animated line drawings of a couple making love might disturb, rather than reassure, some of the young teenagers at whom the cassette is aimed.

In fact there is precious little real help here for the youngster: no hard information, for example, on contraception or how to cope with teenage pregnancy. Just young teenagers in group discussions, relating their problems: "Me dad told me 'e dug me up in the garden and when 'e saw me 'e screamed an' run indoors."

The BBC's *Having a Baby* reflects its origins as an educational series. Filmed largely at Bristol Maternity Hospital, it offers a comprehensive guide to conception, pregnancy, labour and early parenthood, with the aid of clear graphics. We follow four couples from different backgrounds as they visit their GPs, clinics and antenatal classes; we share their hopes and fears, and accompany two of the mothers into labour. Later they and their husbands describe the effect of their babies on their lives.

This comprehensive account would be useful as an educational film for older teenagers as well as for mothers-to-be, and would grace an antenatal class; but it is an establishment product and that shows, for example, when a physiotherapist tells her class they will be taught to be passive in the first stage of labour, active in the second...

Passivity of any kind would, of course, be anathema to Sheila Kitzinger, high priestess of natural childbirth, whose *New Good Birth Guide* is aimed exclusively at parents-to-be and is essentially a consumer guide. Little of the material will be new to women who have attended a good National Childbirth Trust class.

Most of the action takes place in Mrs Kitzinger's sitting room, where a group of articulate, middle-class women, some with their men in tow, talk of their attitudes and expectations about the births of their babies. For "partners" (no "husbands" here) there's a special apron filled with 30lb of sand to bring home the reality of late pregnancy. Effective use is also made of a rag doll.

Mrs Kitzinger is an inspiring teacher, sound on advice such as how to choose the place of birth or refuse a foetal monitor, controversial in her advocacy of home births and positively effusive over relaxation techniques as alternatives to analgesia. But I wonder how many mothers would agree that the crowning of a baby's head felt like the petals of a peony opening?

Susan Ellis

Diversions for the armchair critics

Dr Coppelius (90 mins) Precision Video, £40.99
La Fille mal gardée (98 mins) Thorn EMI, £37.50
Manon (113 mins) Thorn EMI, £37.50
Romeo and Juliet (125 mins) Precision Video, £40.99

For ballet lovers video has one immediate attraction. The view from an armchair is a lot more comfortable and less obstructed than that from an orchestra stall (not to mention an upper slip). The disadvantages become clearly evident, though, as soon as you settle down to watch. A completely visible small screen lacks the clarity, and drama of even a partly obscured stage; close camerawork sometimes accentuates the dancers' difficulties; and there is a risk of poor reproduction of the music.

I suppose the purpose of these tapes then is to provide either a home introduction to the beauties of ballet or a permanent record of a treasured performance.

Dr Coppelius has to be the former. It is, as the blurb says, "a ballet-story film enacted and expanded on screen". It softens and sentimentalizes the already pretty soppy Coppelia story. Dr Coppelius becomes a benign old buffer (Walter Slezak) insistently making eyes at the camera to press home the point. As improbable a tavern wench as ever banged out the beer in Mitteleuropa (Eileen Elliott) is invented to love, and eventually, wed him.

"This is 'Entertainment'!" the label boasts (their quotation marks and emphasis), and I would agree that it is only ballet at its most trite level.

Much more delicious and diverting is the Covent Garden performance of Frederick Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée*, more than competently directed for BBC Television by John Vernon. This must be the model of how to transpose stage performance directly to the screen – using a liberal number of cameras, well placed to show the dancers and the action at their best.

This tape is a pleasure to have: Lesley Collier is a delightful Lise, and Michael Coleman, albeit a mite below top form, a winning Colas. My only reservation (and this is nostalgic and mean) is that it would have been wonderful to have had Stanley Holden's Widow Simone and Alexander Grant as Alain. Brian Shaw and Garry Grant, good as they are, do not quite capture the fullest magic of the roles.

A similar yearning plagued my viewing of Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*. Having just seen Natalia Makarova's pliant and passionate interpretation in vital and vivid real life at the Royal Opera House, I found Jennifer Penney all the more pallid on screen. On stage, I remember, she does project some of the sexuality the role requires. Here she appears a neat and compient dancer, a suburban sylph rather than a coquette and courtesan. But then the screen also reduces the stage sets and designs, which are subtly matched and shaded, to dangerously dreary nonotones.

With *Romeo and Juliet* one would rather have another ballet. This one, restaged for filming by Patricia Foy at the Palazzo della Sport with the cast from La Scala, Milan, if Rudolf Nureyev's production with his self-serving choreography. It could almost have the title abbreviated to Romeo; Nureyev hogs the star dancing, and his surprisingly ungracious and ungainly choreography does not give Carla Farcci adequate opportunity to overcome the fact that she is in any case no natural Juliet. She is long-legged and lissome in the way of a woman of the world rather than an enraptured girl.

And who would not want a record of Margot Fonteyn doing rather something more than that walk-on tragedienne Lady Capulet? Kenneth MacMillan's marvellous Royal Opera House version is considered kinder to both Prokofiev and Shakespeare, but Nureyev's (recorded here with sadly wooffy musical accompaniment) will at least delight his devoted fans.

Robin Young

PREVIEW Theatre

Man with the gravelly voice is back where he belongs

Tommy Trinder celebrates 62 years in show business by returning to the familiar world of pantomime in *Aladdin* at the Shaftesbury Theatre. He is playing an elderly police constable, a part written especially for him.

"I wander on to the stage at various times in the evening, and the others keep asking where they've seen my face before", says Trinder who, at 74, still has the unmistakable jawline and battered trilby hat.

One of the oldest comedians working, he began his career as a boy singer in an Islington music hall. His first panto, in 1921, was *Dick Whittington* at the unlikely address of the Manor Place Baths in Walworth Road, south London. His favourite part was Buttons with Evelyn Laye as Prince Charming, "but time has marched on since then, and I've worked my way through Abanazar to the Emperor of China and now a Chinese policeman."

Aladdin is produced and devised by Paul Elliott who, with 15 other shows opening around Christmas, is becoming something of a panto king. Elliott dislikes the recent trend for pantomimes to become star-studded variety shows and is getting back to the tradition of telling a story rather than putting on a string of TV commercial jokes.

He has got together an interesting cast – Jill Gascoine of the television series, *The Gentle Touch*, plays Aladdin, the singer Lynsey de Paul is the Princess and the ballerina Doreen Wells has a dancing role as the Genii. The script also steers clear of "adult" jokes that pass over the heads of children.

"It's strictly family entertainment", says Trinder. "I have never stood for any off-colour jokes. The lights go down, the orchestra tunes up and you get the kind of atmosphere you never find in a cinema. I don't think panto has changed very much over the years. You still get all those favourite bits of audience participation – kids shouting, 'Oh yes you did!' at the villain and all that."

Trinder was well known as a television personality in the 1950s with his catch phrase, "Oh you lucky people!" when he compared *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, and he appeared in numerous Royal Variety performances. He continues to work all over the world, from panto in Australia to a summer show at Skegness.

A couple of weeks ago, he returned to his stand-up comedian routine at the Royal Festival Hall during an evening in aid of the Police Benevolent Fund.

"Nowadays I start off with a dance, and then tell them: 'You see, I'm not as old as you thought I was.' I usually do a bit of political stuff in my act, Mrs Thatcher and so on, but I thought I'd keep off it with that particular audience. I've always been strong on adlibbing, which makes it disconcerting for other actors when there's a script and they're waiting for a cue that doesn't come."

The gravelly voice is vintage Trinder: "My wife never looks for me when she comes into a room, she listens. I never stop talking, and I'm now writing my autobiography with a tape recorder. I've called it Ham and Ego. People always told me I should write a book, then I realized there was money in it."

Clare Colvin

Aladdin is at the Shaftesbury Theatre (836 6596) today at 2.30 and 7.30pm, continuing with two performances a day until Jan 14, then evenings at 7.30pm with matinees on Wed, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm until Feb 4.

Nobby Clark



Tommy Trinder: The trouper with the trilby in new headgear

Critics' choice

THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY
The Pit (628 8795)
In repertory (but on by itself from now to Dec 28)
Taking a rare Jacobean comedy as its starting-point, Nicholas Wright's tale of innocent and fleshly love in turn-of-the-century Transvaal has a highly original flavour and provides Sara Kestelman and Sinead Cusack with two splendidly extravagant roles.

HAY FEVER
Queen's (734 1166)
Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinées Wed at 3pm
Noël Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their *mixed bag of persecuted house* guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith takes to the leading lady's part as though to the bad manners born.

MR CINDERS
Fortune (836 2238)
Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 4.30pm and 8pm; matinées Thurs at 3pm
Packed with enchanting songs and boasting a witty performance by Denis Lawson of acrobatic brilliance, Vivian Ellis's 1929 musical recasts *Cinderella* in the anyone-for-tennis age. Modest staging (originally at the King's Head); but the production's speed and sparkle make it an intoxicating *evening*.

PACK OF LIES
Lyric (437 3686)
Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinées Wed at 3pm
Hugh Whitemore's powerful study of a decent couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a Kroger-style spy case. Judi Dench and Michael Williams find impressively tragic performances in the most humdrum surroundings.

THE RIVALS
Olivier (928 2252)
Thurs at 7.15pm, Fri at 2pm and 7.15pm. In repertory with Jean Seberg by Marvin Hamlisch, Christopher Adler, Julian Barry (today at 2pm and 7.15pm) and Tales From Hollywood by Christopher Hampton (Mon at 7.15pm, Tues at 2pm and 7.15pm)
Peter Wood's sparkling revival of Sheridan fulfils the promise of its cast list. Geraldine McEwan as a young but hilariously affected Mrs Malaprop, Sir Michael Hordern *gouty and irascible*, Patrick Ryecart as a witty hero.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL
Duke of York's (836 5122)
Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, matinées Wed and Sat at 3pm
First seen some months ago at the Haymarket, John Barton's handsome and intelligent production returns for Christmas with, as before, Donald Sinden and Beryl Reid in their broadest comic vein, *plus* some promising *new* recruits including Nicola Pagett and Clive Francis.

TURNING OVER
Bush (743 3388)
Tues-Sun at 8pm
Soon to be seen on television in *The Raj Quartet*, Geraldine James and Charles Dance inhabit another Indian setting in this thoughtful and very funny play: a hill-station where a quarrelling documentary team is shooting a film about the happy life.

Out of Town

BIRMINGHAM: Repertory Theatre (021 236 4455). Toad of Toad Hall, by A. A. Milne with music by H. Fraser Simson. Opens Fri at 7.30pm. Until Feb 11, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinées some days at 2.30pm or 4pm
Bob Grant and Terry Molloy head the cast.

BRIGHTON: Theatre Royal (0273 28488). Cinderella. Opens Fri at 7.30pm. Until Jan 21, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées some days at 2.30pm. Dec 24 2pm and 6pm
Christopher Biggins, Carol Cleveland, Denny Willis et al.

BRISTOL: Theatre Royal, Old Vic (0272 24388). The Merry Gentleman by Julian Slade. Opens Fri at 7.45pm. Until Feb 4, Mon–Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Thurs at 3pm, Sat at 4pm, also Dec 26-29, and Jan 2 at 3pm. No perf Dec 24, Jan 30
Slade's 1953 musical fairy tale contains some memorable songs, and pleases adults and children alike. Roger Bizley, June Barrie, Ian Lindsay lead. John David directs.

BRISTOL: New Vic (0272 24388). Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn. Opens Thurs at 7.45pm. Until Feb 4, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm. No perf Jan 30
Peter Copley, Rosamund Shelley, Gareth Armstrong, Lloyd McGuire, directed by Andy Hinds, in one of Ayckbourn's most popular comedies.

CARDIFF: New (022 32446). Humpty Dumpty. Until Feb 4, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm. No evening perf on Dec 24
Ventriloquist Keith Harris and his most popular character, *Orville*, plus pianist Bobby Crush and singer Jacqui Scott, head the cast of a pantomine with costumes and sets made by the Welsh National Opera workshops.

CROYDON: Ashcroft (688 9291). The Wind in the Willows, based on the story by Kenneth Grahame. Opens Tues at 7.30pm. Until Jan 14, Mon-Sat at 3pm and 7.30pm (no matinées Dec 20, 21, 23, Jan 9, 10, 12, 13)
Family musical featuring the familiar characters Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad.

EDINBURGH: Royal Lyceum (031 229 9697). Regards to Broadway by Benny Green. Opens today at 8pm. Until Jan 21, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; also at 8pm on Dec 26, 27 and Jan 2; matinée Jan 21 at 4pm
"New" show using the songs of many composers to trace the history of the American musical. World premiere production, directed by Leslie Lawton, who also leads the cast with Sheila O'Neill.

LEICESTER: Haymarket (0533 539797). West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Laurents, Stephen Sondheim. Until Feb 4 (at least), Mon, Tues, Thurs at 7.30pm, Wed, Fri, Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed and Sat at 4.30pm. Times differ in Christmas week
Spectacular revival of the musical update of the Romeo and Juliet story set in New York. Songs include "Tonight", "Maria", "Somewhere" and "America"

MANCHESTER: Royal Exchange (061 833 9833). Moby Dick by Herman Melville, adapted by Michael Elliot. Opens Thurs at 7pm. Until Jan 28, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4.30pm
Elliot directs his own adaptation, with Brian Cox in the role of Captain Ahab. Philip Madoc leads supporting cast.

NOTTINGHAM: Playhouse (0602 419419). The Gondoliers by Gilbert & Sullivan. Until Jan 7, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm (no perf Dec 24 or Jan 2); matinées Dec 26, 28, Jan 7 at 2.30pm
Richard Digby Day and Gregory Doran direct Basil Hoskins, Joan Davies, William Relton, Trevor Jones, Rosemary Ashe and Jonathan Kiley *in a full-scale* revival.

SLOUGH: Fulcrum (75 36889). Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Until Jan 14, Mon-Sat at 2pm and 7.30pm. No perf Dec 24, Jan 2 at 11.30am and 4.30pm, Jan 14 at 11am and 4.30pm
Frankie Howerd leads the cast in a show which is already almost completely sold out.

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Victoria (0782 615962). Ali Baba by Christopher Martin. In repertory until Feb 18. Today at 2.30pm and 7pm. Next perf Jan 4
New Christmas play for children aged between five and 11 and families. Music, magic, comedy.
Thark by Ben Travers. Opens Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory until Feb 25. Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm. Next perf Dec 28
Famous farce, one of many written for the Aldwych company in the 1920s.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare (0789 295623). Twelfth Night. Today and Thurs at 1.30pm
John Caird directs Emrys James, Daniel Massey, Gemma Jones, John Thaw.
Julius Caesar. Wed at 7.30pm
Joseph O'Conor, Peter McEnery, Emrys James, Nigel Cooke, directed by Ron Daniels.
Henry VIII. Tues at 7.30pm
First Stratford production since 1969. Howard Davies directs Richard Griffiths, Paul Greenwood, John Thaw, Sarah Berger, Gemma Jones.
Measure for Measure. Mon at 7.30pm
New production, directed by Adrian Noble. Daniel Massey, Richard O'Callaghan.
The Comedy of Errors. Today at 7.30pm, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm
Paul Greenwood, Peter McEnery, Zoe Wanamaker, Richard O'Callaghan, Joseph O'Conor, directed by Adrian Noble.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters; Galleries: John Russell Taylor; Photography: Michael Young; Dance: John Percival

PREVIEW Galleries

RAOUL DUFY
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3144). Until Feb 5, Mon-Wed 10am-8pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm
Running concurrently with the exhibition of Hockney photographs is the largest survey of Dufy's art ever staged. The radiant and optimistic painter of yachts, regattas, racecourse scenes and *harvests is represented* by several paintings not seen before in England, while four large murals commissioned by Guy Weisweiller for his villa at Antibes are being given their first public display.

THE GENIUS OF VENICE 1500-1600
Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until Mar 11, daily 10am-6pm
The sixteenth century was the most glorious epoch for Venetian art. Carpaccio's painting "The Lion of St Mark" symbolizes Venetian power and introduces an exhibition of 300 masterpieces drawn from collections thoughout the world, and including the recently restored "Judgement of Solomon" painted by Giorgione or Sebastiano del *Piombo, or the two together.*

POLITE SOCIETY BY ARTHUR DEVIS
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (930 1552). Until Jan 29, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
Arthur Devis painted portraits of the English country gentleman and his family grouped informally in the drawing room or set against the backdrop of the family estate. His gentle "conversation pieces" contain meticulously observed detail and reflect the contemporary preoccupation with the social graces in the eighteenth century. Also (until Jan 8) pictures by William Dobson, the leading British-born portrait painter of the seventeenth century.

JOHN PIPER
The Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Until Jan 22, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
This exhibition celebrating the artists' eightieth birthday is the largest of his work ever mounted and shows his development through his watercolours of the British countryside, early abstract paintings and excursions into other media, such as the stained glass for Coventry Cathedral. A separate room *is devoted to his work for the* stage. A series of concerts, lectures and film screenings runs concurrently.

NATURAL HISTORY IN ART
Eyre and Hobhouse, 39 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 (930 9308). Until Dec 23, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm
Watercolours and drawings which chart the growth of interest in unfamiliar animals, fossils and insects from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries in Europe, *China and India.*

GODDESSES
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W14 (603 4535). Until Dec 31, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm
Andrew Logan's sculptures include *a huge moving figure of Zandra* Rhodes; "The Birth of Existence", a 28ft red mobile incorporating floating holograms; a 12ft-high egg decorated with mirrors; and a "Living Taj Mahal". Logan's jewelry is on sale and there are also a slide show, videos, Indian refreshments and music.

PHOTOGRAPHY

NIGHT TRICK
Stills Gallery, 58 High Street, Edinburgh (031-557 1140). Until Jan 7, Tues-Sat 12.30-6pm.
Nostalgia run riot with Winston Link's stage-mannered view of the Norfolk and Western Railway and the everyday life surrounding it in small-town America during the 1950s.

RAIL IMAGES
Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milsom Street, Bath (0225 62841). Wed until Feb 4, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm
Interest in old railways abounds, be it in the form of memorabilia or preserved steam trains. Most of the pictures were taken before the Second World War and many date from the 1860s.

A VANISHED WORLD
Ben Uri Gallery, 21 Dean Street, London W1 (01-437 2852). Until Dec 29. Mon-Wed 10.30am-6.30pm, Thur 10.30am-7.30pm, Sun 3-6pm
Roman Vishniac (now 86 and living in New York) travelled 5,000 miles between 1934 and 1937 photographing the Jews of Eastern Europe. Of the 16,000 photographs he took only 2,000 survived; 60 are in this exhibition. A poignant view of a civilization destroyed by Hitler.

Dance

TWYLA THARP
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Today and Mon – Thurs at 7.30pm
Casual-looking, individual, stimulatingly different dance works by a genius of the throw-away dance line, performed by a company of brilliant dancers. *Nine Sinatra Songs*, the new Telemann ballet and *Sue's Leg* to music by Fats Waller are the bill tonight and Wed. Another bill with *Eight Jelly Rolls and Bad Smells flanking the* Golden Section from *The Catherine Wheel* is given Mon and Thurs. Only one more chance (Tues) to see *Baker's Dozen* and Tharp's latest piece, premiered last night.

ROYAL BALLET
***Covent Garden (240 1066). Today* and Tues – Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri at 1.30pm**
The new ballets by Bintley and Alston are on tonight, with MacMillan's *Requiem*; recommended. Bryony Brind dances *Swan Lake* on Tues. Wed is debut night: Marguerite Porter and Ashley Page in Ashton's *Varii Capricci* and Lesley Collier in *Raymonda Act III; Apollo* completes the programme. *Cinderella* returns for a Christmas run on Thurs with Antoinette Sibley *and Anthony Dowell; Wendy Ellis* and Stephen Jefferies lead Fri's matinée.

WAYNE SLEEP
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road (580 9562). *Previews Mon, Tues at* 7.30pm, opening Wed at 7pm, then evenings (not Sun) at 7.30pm, matinées Sat at 2.30pm
The cheeky chappy of the dance stage is back with a new *Dash* – although many old favourites will be there with new items mixed in, including a jazz adagio act.

JANET SMITH
The Place (387 0031). Today at 4pm and 7.30pm
Last day of the London run of Janet Smith's talking, singing and dancing version of poems and stories by A. A. Milne with Pooh, Tigger, *Christopher Robin and* company. The company goes on tour after Christmas.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Plymouth, Theatre Royal (0752 669595). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm.
Giselle brings the company's short tour to an end, with Sherilyn Kennedy in the title part this afternoon, Marion Tait this evening. Then its back to Sadler's Wells, opening on Dec 29 with *Coppelia*.

Entertainments

What's new on the GLC South Bank?

GLC South Bank Concert Halls, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX.
Tickets: 01-928 3191. Information: 01-928 3002.
BOX OFFICE opening hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am to 9 pm. Sundays 1.30 to 9 pm.
CREDIT CARDS 01-928 6544.

GROUP DISCOUNTS available for most Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Hall performances: details in monthly diary 'Music on the South Bank' or ring 01-928 3002.

STAND-BY SCHEME Tickets at £2.00 for Royal Festival Hall and £1.50 for Queen Elizabeth Hall concerts available to schoolchildren, students, unemployed, senior citizens. Telephone 01-633 0932. Available one hour before start of performance.

Royal Festival Hall.

Open all day to everyone. Free lunchtime music.

GUIDED TOURS of the Royal Festival Hall. Daily at 12.45 pm and 5.30 pm. £1.00 per person. Reservations 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 6544.

Saturday 17 Dec 3pm & 7.30pm	MASSED CHOIRS OF THE LONDON HOSPITALS Charles Farncombe (cond) Paul Archibald (trumpet) Ian Curror (organ) Charles Fullbrook, Richard Fullbrook (timpani percussion) Fanfare Trumpeters of The Royal Corps of Signals. Carols and Christmas Music. 3 pm: £6 50 (only) 7.30 pm: Sold out. In aid Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children
Sunday 18 Dec 3.15pm & 7.30pm	GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION Brian Wright (conductor) Roger Vignoles (pno) Antony Saunders (pno) Christopher Bowers-Broadbent (organ) Robert Howes (percussion) Carols for choir and audience. 3 15pm. £1 80 £4 30 £6 (only) 7 30pm £1.80. £2 50. £3 50. £4.30. £6 (only) — Goldsmiths Choral Union
Monday 19 Dec 7.30pm	FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENING Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra Ashtead Choral Society Camden Choir Hertford Choral Society Howard Williams (cond) Malcolm Binns (pno) Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Grieg Piano Concerto: Carols for choir and audience. £2. £2.90. £6 60 (only) — E.R.M.A
Tuesday 20 Dec 7.30pm	RAVEL/VARESE FESTIVAL BBC Symphony Orchestra David Atherton (cond) Paul Crossley (pno) Ravel Rapsodie espagnole; Concerto for piano (left hand) & orch; Bolero. Varèse Amériques: Ravel La Valse. At 6.15pm in the RFH Waterloo Room Paul Griffiths talks about Varèse (Admission free). £1. £2 50. £4 50. £6 50. £8.50 — Sinfonietta Productions
Wednesday 21 Dec 6pm & 8.30pm	ART GARFUNKEL Wren Orchestra of London Finchley Children's Music Group; Carl Davis; John Wallace. A special Christmas Concert for the family. Bach Sinfonia from the Christmas Oratorio; Haydn Trumpet Conc: Jimmy Webb The Animal's Christmas (1st Br pf). 6pm: £6. £8. £10 (only) 8 30pm. SOLD OUT. Capital Radio. Cadbury's Drinking Chocolate. In aid Help a London Child
27 Dec to 18 Jan	LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET CHRISTMAS SEASON 27 December – 7 January THE NUTCRACKER, 9-18 January CINDERELLA, Eves 7 30pm. Matinees 3pm on 28-31 Dec, 7 and 14 January. Concessions for families, the young, elderly, unemployed and on tickets booked for both ballets. £3. £4. £6. £8. £10 — London Festival Ballet

WHERE TO EAT

If you are in search of food and drink you need not look far. Visit the fabulous FESTIVAL BUFFET, the piquant PIZZA AND SALT BEEF BAR, the aromatic COFFEE LOUNGE and the FOYER BAR on the upper foyer while downstairs is the CAFETERIA and COFFEE SHOP, all for your delectation.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

While there are no performances in the Royal Festival Hall on 22 and 23 December, the remainder of the Hall's auditorium facilities are open to the public for BUSINESS AS USUAL.
The entire Royal Festival Hall closes at 6 pm on 24 December and re-opens at 10 am on 27 December.

CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In the Royal Festival Hall between 6 pm and 7 pm each evening until Friday 23 December. Charities will be taking part.

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

From the Royal Festival Hall book, record and gift shops in the foyer on Level 2. Open from 11 am to 10.30 pm each day. Visit them for your Christmas gifts and take advantage of the free gift-wrap service. Credit Cards and Mail Order Service. Telephone: 01-633 9323.

THE MUSIC BOX

Saturday 17 December: London Vintage Jazz Orchestra
Twenties and Thirties Nostalgia evening.
Sunday 18 December: Pyewackett
Christmas Extravaganza from a multi-instrumental and vocal band.
Friday 30 December: Digby Fairweather Quartet
Jazz classical improvisation.
Admission Free!

I LEONARDO

Until 8 January.
An exhibition of drawings and sketches by Ralph Steadman for his new and eccentric biography of Leonardo da Vinci published by Jonathan Cape.
Open to the public from 10 am
Royal Festival Hall. Upper Foyer.

DRAWN TO BALLET

Until 18 January.
An exhibition of drawings and lithographs by Zsuzsi Roboz, arranged in association with the Exhibition Department of the Royal Festival Hall.
Open to the public from 10 am
Riverside Terrace: Level 5.

DAVID HOCKNEY POSTERS

Until 8 January.
An exhibition of a private collection of posters for galleries and the theatre by David Hockney.
Open to the public from 10 am. Upper Foyer.

THE SPIRIT OF LONDON

Until 15 January.
GLC Painting Exhibition.
An exhibition of the prize winners and a selection of other entries to the GLC annual competition.
Open to the public from 10 am. Main Foyer.

CRAFT EVENT

On Saturday 17 December, Sunday 18 December and Monday 19 December.
Demonstrations and sales of jewellery, herbs, floral art, glass, leatherwork, fabric collage, etc.
Royal Festival Hall Level 3 Red Side.
Daily from 11.00 am.

Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Saturday 17 Dec 7.45pm	CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE City of London Choir Donald Cashmore (conductor) Farnaby Brass Ensemble Geoffrey Morgan (organ) £3 25 £4 50 (only) — City of London Choir
Sunday 18 Dec 7.15pm	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Choir of King's College, Cambridge Stephen Cleobury, Patrizia Kwella, Patricia Bardon, Peter Jeffes, Henry Herford, David Briggs Christmas Concert Mozart Mass in C, K 317 (Coronation) Handel Organ Concerto in F Op 4 4. The prog inc carols for choir & audience. SOLD OUT — E C O & Music Society
Monday 19 Dec 7.45pm	DIVERTIMENTI STRING ORCHESTRA John Lubbock (conductor) Norbert Brainin (violin) Peter Schidlof (viola) Elgar Introduction & Allegro for Strings. Mozart Sinfonia Concertante for violin & viola, K 364; Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings. £2. £3. £4. £5. £6 — Divertimenti Ltd
Tuesday 20 Dec 7.45pm	WIMBLEDON GIRL SINGERS The Children From Norway in Costume St Paul's School (Barnes) Orchestra Malcolm Parker, Jonathan Varcoe (conductors) Andrew Alfpass (pno) Robert Bowman (presenter) Carols for Choir and Audience Strauss A Waltz: Dvořák Serenade. Matthew Curtis New Work. Wk by Mozart. £1. £1.50. £2 £2 50 — Wimbledon Girl Singers
Wednesday 21 Dec 7.45pm	CHORUS OF THE CHELSEA HARMONIC SOCIETY Choir of Farlington School New Symphony Orchestra Edward de Rivera (cond) Julie Kennard (sop) Alison Mary Sutton (cont) James Griffett (ten) Michael George (bass) Anthony Halliday (organ) Handel Messiah (Part 1); Sir Arthur Somervell Christmas Cantata. £2.50 £4 50. £5 50. £6 50 (only) — Chelsea Harmonic Soc
Thursday 22 Dec 7.45pm	THE ENGLISH CONCERT Trevor Pinnock (dir hpschd) Simon Standage (vln) David Reichenberg (ob) Corelli Conc Grosso, Op 6 8 (Christmas Conc); Albinoni Conc a cinque for ob & strings, Op. 9 2; Handel Organ Conc Op 4 No 2. Vivaldi Winter, The 4 Seasons; Telemann Vln Conc Bach Double Conc for ob vln & strings, BWV 1060. £2. £4. £6 (only) — P E C Concerts
Friday 23 Dec 7.45pm	NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA Vivienne Price (cond) Patrick Moore (narr) Adam Ot... St Jean Rm. Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Greensleeves. Delius La Calinda. Don Gillis The Man Who Invented Music; Mussorgsky/Rimsky-Korsakov Night on the Bare Mountain. Elgar Pomp & Circumstance March No 1 etc. £1 50 £2. £3. £4 £4 50 — National Children's Orch
Wednesday 28 Dec 7.45 pm	AN EVENING OF GOSPEL MUSIC WITH STEEL ORCHESTRA. The London Community Gospel Choir and Orchestra. Glissando Steel Orchestra, Bazil Meade (director), Alex Pascall (vocalist, compere) A Time For All Selections from Handel's Messiah and other Christmas and Gospel songs £3. £4. £5 — Good Vibes Records & Music Ltd
Thursday 29 Dec 6.00 pm	DER ROSENKAVALIER (U) 190 mins Paul Czinner's colour film of Strauss's opera, inc. Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Herbert von Karajan. Personal appearance of Dr Elisabeth Schwarzkopf in conversation with Alan Sievewright during the interval of this screening. ALL SEATS £2 50
Friday 30 Dec 6.00 pm	DON GIOVANNI (PG) 174 mins Joseph Losey's much acclaimed colour film of Mozart's opera inc. Ruggero Raimondi, Kiri Te Kanawa, Edda Moser, Teresa Berganza, Jose van Dam, Kenneth Riegel, Malcolm King, John Macurdy. Orchestra and Chorus of Paris Opera, Lorin Maazel. ALL SEATS £2 50 — Distrib by Artificial Eye Film Co

OPERA FILMS AT CHRISTMAS

Evenings at 6 pm.

29 December DER ROSENKAVALIER (U)
with personal appearance of Dr. Elisabeth Schwarzkopf
30 December DON GIOVANNI (PG)
1 January DON GIOVANNI (PG)
2 January DER ROSENKAVALIER (U)
3 January OTELLO (U)
4 January KHOVANSHCHINA (U)
ALL SEATS £2.50

Purcell Room

Saturday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	NAOMI DAVIDOV (piano). Scott Joplin and His Contemporaries. The best loved and lesser known Rags, including Maple Leaf, The Entertainer, Solace, Easy Winners, Magnetic Rag, Ragtime Dance, Pastimes, Nightingale Rag. £2.50 — Emperor Concerts
Sunday 18 Dec 2.45 pm	A CHRISTMAS BOX. MICHAEL AND DOREEN MUSKETT present a varied programme of Festive and Christmas music appealing to all ages. Mediaeval and traditional songs, carols and instrumental pieces from many countries. £2, only — Early Music Duo
Sunday 18 Dec 7.00 pm	ENGLISH ECHOES. Dinah Harris (sop), Jean Rigby (m-sop), Andrew King (ten), Robert Dean (bar), William Relton (speaker), Stuart Hutchinson (pno). Christmas Chestnuts, English and American Song performed with reverence (and tongue-in-cheek) in true Festive Spirit. £2. £3. £3.50 — English Echoes
Monday 19 Dec 7.30 pm	MAX TEPPICH (violin), DAPHNE IBBOTT (piano). Corelli/Kreisler La Folia; Beethoven Sonata in F, Op 24 (Spring); Schubert Duo in A, D.574; Paganini Caprices Op 1, Nos 11, 13, 24; Wieniawski Scherzo-Tarantelle, Op 16. £3. £4. £5 — Teppich
Tuesday 20 Dec 7.30 pm	ALLAN SCHILLER, JOHN HUMPHREYS (piano duet). Mozart Sonata in C, K521; Schubert Andantino varié in B minor, D823.2; Fantasy in F min, D.940; Ravel Mother Goose Suite; Malcolm Hawkins On Stage (1st Ldn pf); Grainger Let's Dance Gay in Green Meadow; Brahms Hungarian Dances, Book II £1.50, £2.50, £3.50 — John Humphreys
Wednesday 21 Dec 7.30 pm.	CHRISTOPHER ADDINGTON (flûte d'amour), RICHARD LEIGH HARRIS (hpschd) Music for Flûte d'Amour and Harpsichord by J S Bach. Sonata in E flat, BWV 1031. Sonata in B min G min, BWV 1030; Three harpsichord pieces: Sinfonia No 11, BWV797; Invention No 15, BWV 786; etc £1 50 £2. £2 50 — Christopher Addington

GLC Working for the Arts in London.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
SUNDAY 1 JANUARY at 3.15 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
and DANCERS in Costume
Directed from the Violin by JACK ROTHSTEIN
ANN JAMES soprano SALLY GILPIN choreographer
Popular music of the Strauss Family inc. Morning Papers, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Emperor Waltz, Champagne Polka, Blue Danube, Radetzky March, Cachucha Galop, Roses from the South, Die Libelle, Feuerfest, Village Swallows, Songs from Die Fledermaus, The Gypsy Baron, etc.
3.15: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50
7.30: £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50 (only)
from Hall (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 6544) & Agents



RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
SUNDAY 15 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.
TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING
MARCHE SLAVE — SWAN LAKE SUITE
PIANO CONCERTO NO.1 — NUTCRACKER SUITE
OVERTURE 1812 (with cannon & mortar effects)
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor: MARCUS DODS
CHRISTOPHER GREEN-ARMYTAGE Piano BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS
£3.80, £4 80, £5.80, £6.80, £7.80 (only)
from Hall (01-928 3191 Credit Cards (01-928 6544 & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents TUESDAY 10 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.
London recital debut by final prizewinner 1978 Tchaikovsky Competition.



ELMAR OLIVEIRA violin
WALTER PONCE piano

HANDEL: Sonata No. 4 in D
PROKOFIEV: Sonata in F minor, Op.80
SUK: Four Pieces, Op.17
BRAHMS: Sonata in D minor, Op.108

£1.50, £2.50, £3, £4 Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 6544) & Agents
Sponsored by Peter Biddulph

PURCELL ROOM

Wednesday 28 Dec 2.45 pm 7.30 pm	THE PARLOUR QUARTET Miss Maureen Keetch soprano, Miss Angela Vernon Bates mezzo-soprano, Mr Robert Carpenter Turner baritone, Mr Kenneth Barclay pianoforte & sleigh-bells. Victorian Christmas Matinee for Children at 2.45pm. Seasonal Songs audience participation performed in Victorian costume. £1 60 Children, £2 Adults. Victorian evening of Christmas Treats at 7 30pm. Fun and frolics of a Victorian Christmas with Songs and Ballads in tune with the Season. £2. £2.80. £3.80.

Wigmore Hall

Manager: William Lyne
Tickets from Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St., W1
Tel: Box office 01-935 2141 Mailing list £1 80 year
Credit cards 01-930 9232
Arts Council of Great Britain

Tonight 17 Dec 7.30 p.m.	THE WIGMORE CHRISTMAS CONCERT £4.80, £4, £3, £2	William Bennett (flute), Clifford Benson [illegible]
Tomorrow 18 Dec 7.30 p.m.	THE SONGMAKERS ALMANAC £4. £3.20, £2.50, £2 Song Recital Series Ron Gonsalves	Felicity Lott sop. Ann Murray mezzo-sop. Richard Jackson bar. Graham Johnson pno. A Viennese Requiem I: Johannes Brahms in Vienna. A song portrait of Brahms last composing period.
Thursday 29 Dec 7.30 p.m.	THE HILLIARD ENSEMBLE £3.50, £3, £2.50, £1.80 Early Music & Baroque Series/Magenta Music	David James, Paul Elliott, Leigh Nixon, Rogers Covey-Crump, Paul Hillier, Michael George. Songbooks. An entertainment from Henry VIII's Manuscript to the Yale Song Bk & music by Praetorius, Schubert, Grainger.
Friday 30 Dec 7.30 p.m.	ENDYMION ENSEMBLE Dir John Whitfield £3.50, £3, £2.50, £1.80	Mozart: Flute Quartet in D K285; Martin Stebbing: Lyrics (1st perf); Schubert: Octet in F Op 166 D803
Saturday 31 Dec 7.30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Concert COULL STRING QUARTET MICHAEL COLLINS clarinet £4. £3.20. £2 50. £2	Schubert: Quartet in E flat Op 125 No 1 D87; Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B min Op 115 (to end Brahms 150th Anniversary year) Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A K581.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL Kensington SW7 2AP

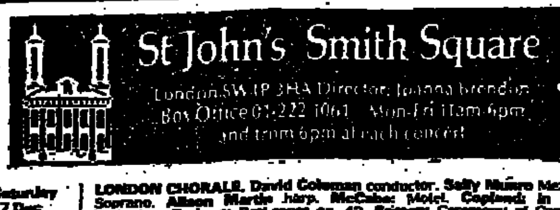
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Saturday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	LONDON CHORALE, David Coleman conductor, Sally Munro Mezzo-Soprano, Alison Martin harp. McCabe: Motet, Copland: In the beginning, Brahms: Part-songs op. 42, Britten: Ceremony of Carols; music by Coleman, Warlock, and a selection of 20th century carols. £3.50, £3, £2.50, £1.75, £1.50
Monday 19 Dec 8 pm	Supper Recital in the Crypt. MADELEINE DRING – Her Unpublished Works. Janine Roebuck Mezzo, Charles Daniels Tenor, Nicholas Daniel Oboe, Peter Williams Bassoon, Julius Drake Piano. £5 to include a glass of wine — Friends of St. John's, Jean Mellde Management

BARBICAN HALL

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01-638 8891/01-628 8795
Telephone Bookings: 10am-8pm 7 days a week

Ton't Dec 17 7.00 pm	BACH – CHRISTMAS ORATORIO. English Baroque Choir and Orchestra. Leon Lovett (cond), Janet Price (soprano), Margaret Cable (contralto), William Kendall (tenor), Albrecht Klora (bass) £7.50, £6.50, £5.50, £4 50, £3.50.
Tomor Dec 18 7.00 pm	HANDEL/MESSIAH. City of London Sinfonia. Richard Hickox Singers. Richard Hickox (cond). Elizabeth Gale (soprano), Charles Brett (counter-tenor), Philip Langridge (tenor), Stephen Roberts (bass) £7.00, £6.50, £5.00.
Monday Dec 19 7.45 pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. David Josefowitz (cond). Nigel Kennedy (violin). Beethoven: Overture 'Egmont', Violin Concerto, Symphony No.5 £6.80 £5.50, £3.80, £2 80. — Sponsored by Rank Xerox
Tue/Wed Dec 20/21 7.00 pm	TRICENTROL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL. Ton't, Tomor & Thurs LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Richard Hickox (cond). London Symphony Chorus. Bach: 'Christians be Joyful' (First Chorus Christmas Oratorio). Elgar: Wand of Youth Suite No.1. Vivaldi: 'Winter' from The Four Seasons. Tchaikovsky: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Waltz of the Flowers from 'The Nutcracker Suite' Carols for Orchestra, Chorus and Audience. £6, £4.50, £3.
Thursday Dec 22 7.00 pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Richard Hickox (cond). London Symphony Chorus. Rossini: Overture 'Cinderella'. Bach: Pastoral Symphony from the Christmas Oratorio. Extracts from Britten: A Ceremony of Carols. Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty. Carols for Orchestra, Chorus and Audience. £6. £4.50. £3.
Mon/Tues Dec 26/27 3.00 pm	KASATKA COSSACKS. Oggi Bestavachvili (director). Traditional Ukrainian, Georgian and Moldavian songs, music and spectacular dancing in colourful costumes. Prog incl: Kalinka, Oche Chorne, Songs of the Volga Boatman, Georgian Sabre Dance, etc. £5.50, £4.50, £3.50, £2.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Monday Dec 26 8.00 pm	GILBERT AND SULLIVAN GALA. London Concert Orchestra. Fraser Goulding (cond). Ann James, Doreen Walker, Graeme Matheson-Bruce, Martin McEvoy, Kenneth Sandford. Songs and scenes from the Savoy Operas inc. The Mikado, H.M.S. Pinafore, The Yeomen of the Guard etc. £6.80, £5.50, £3 80, £2 80 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Tuesday Dec 27 8.00 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. James Blair (cond). Stephen Hough (piano) Rossini: Overture 'William Tell'. Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks. Grieg: Piano Concerto. Beethoven: Symphony No.5 £7.50, £6, £4.50, £3 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Wednesday Dec 28 3.00 pm	NAPOLEON. Abel Gance's epic masterpiece recreated by Kevin Brownlow with live orchestral accompaniment by the Wren Orchestra. Score written and conducted by Carl Davis (film runs approx. 5½ hrs plus intervals). £15, £13, £11, £9 — Raymond Gubbay in assoc. with BFI
Thursday Dec 29 3.00 pm	THATS CRICKET. A fantastic assembly of rare archive film compiled by John Huntley. Introduced by Brian Johnson with special guest cricketing celebrities E W Swanton, Tony Lewis & Ian Wallace. Players features incl. W G Grace, Jardine, Larwood and the Great Bodyline Controversy. Bradman, Hobbs and Hutton etc. All seats £3.60 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Thursday Dec 29 8.00 pm	JOSHUA RIFKIN PLAYS SCOTT JOPLIN. Return visit by the Master of Ragtime. Prog incl: Maple Leaf Rag, The Entertainer ('The Sting'), Elite Syncopations, Pineapple Rag, Wall Street Rag, Gladiolus Rag, Mexican Serenade etc. £6 80, £5.50, £3.80, £2.80 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Friday Dec 30 3.00 pm	THE SNOWMAN AND PETER AND THE WOLF. Sinfonia of London. Bernard Cribbins (narrator). Howard Blake (cond). Howard Blake's score was written for the award winning cartoon film. All seats £3.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Friday Dec 30 8.00 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Norman Del Mar (cond). John Ogden (piano). Tchaikovsky: Overture–Fantasia 'Romeo and Juliet'. Sibelius: Finlandia. Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No.2. Dvorak: Symphony 'From the New World'. £8, £6.50, £5, £3 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Sat/Sun Dec 31 & Jan 1 8.00 pm	NEW YEARS EVE/NEW YEARS DAY CONCERTS. London Symphony Orchestra. Directed from the violin by John Georgiadis. Prog. incl J Strauss II: Annen Polka: Fledermaus quadrille: Explosions Polka: Cachucha Galop. Blue Danube Waltz. Thunder and Lightening Polka. Josef Strauss: Dynamiden Waltz Feuerfest Polka. J Strauss I: Radetsky March: Royal Horseguards March. £6 80, £5.50, £3.80, £2.80.

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN

MONDAY 26 & 27 DECEMBER at 3 pm
KASATKA COSSACKS
See Barbican Panel for details

MONDAY 26 DECEMBER at 8 pm
GILBERT & SULLIVAN GALA
See Barbican Panel for details

TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER at 8 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
See Barbican Panel for details

WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER at 3 pm
NAPOLEON
See Barbican Panel for details

THURSDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THAT'S CRICKET
See Barbican Panel for details

See Barbican Panel for details
JOSHUA RIFKIN plays SCOTT JOPLIN
See Barbican Panel for details

FRIDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THE SNOWMAN & PETER AND THE WOLF
See Barbican Panel for details

FRIDAY 30 DECEMBER at 8 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
See Barbican Panel for details

MONDAY 2 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
Music from the Screen
Programme includes music from Star Wars, Close Encounters, The Entertainer, 2001, Murder on the Orient Express, Chariots of Fire, The Dambusters March, The Magnificent Seven, 633 Squadron, etc
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: HARRY RABINOVITZ



WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY at 8 pm
Music from Spain
Falla .... RITUAL FIRE DANCE
Bizet .... CARMEN SUITE
Falla .... NIGHTS IN THE GARDENS OF SPAIN
Rodrigo .... CONCERTO DE ARANJUEZ
Chabrier .... ESPAÑA
Ravel .... BOLERO
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: HOWARD WILLIAMS
DAVID RUSSELL guitar MALCOLM BINNS piano

FRIDAY 6 JANUARY at 8 pm
Presented in association with Harrison/Parrott Ltd
BEETHOVEN
PIANO CONCERTO NO.4 SYMPHONY NO.9 (CHORAL)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY
FOU TS'ONG piano
Phillis Cannan, Sally Burgess, Martyn Hill, Geoffrey Moses, London Choral Society.

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Conductor: RICHARD HICKOX
ELMAR OLIVEIRA violin
MENDELSSOHN: OV. 'The Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave)
BRAHMS: Violin Concerto in D, Op.77
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No.3 in E flat, Op.55 'Eroica'
Sponsored by Peter Biddulph

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THE ROYAL OPERA Mon & Fri at 7 30pm, Die Fledermaus.

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COLISEUM 836 3161 cc 240 5258 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't & Wed at 7.30: MADAM BUTTERFLY. Thurs 7.30: MIREILLE. Fri 7.30: THE ADVENTURES OF MR BROUCEK. Some seats avail at door each day.

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Greater London Council
PURCELL ROOM
Monday 19th December 1983 at 7.30pm
Violin Recital
Max Teppich (violin) plays: Corelli-Kreisler, Beethoven (The Spring), Schubert, Paganini, Wieniawski. Piano: Daphne Ibbott.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611. S. Cdt cards 930 9232/836 7358. Grp sales 930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thu & Sat mats 3.00 ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S MUSICAL OF THE YEAR POPPY by Peter Nichols & Monty Norman "MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE" D. Ml. "Lavish Extravaganza" F. Tms. "UNMISSABLE TREAT" Punch.

ALBERY S 01-836 3878 cc 379 6565, 930 9232. Grp bkgs 01-836 3962, 930 6123. Eves 8.00, Thurs Mat 3.00. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. "A WONDERFUL QUARTET" D.Mail PAUL EDDINGTON COLIN BLAKELY GEORGINA HALE JANE CARR LOVERS DANCING a new comedy by CHARLES DYER "VERY FUNNY INDEED AN EXCELLENT PLAY" Stage "SUPERBLY PLAYED" Punch "SHEER PLEASURE" Variety HOLIDAY PACKAGE: Dnr pre-show at Tourment d'Amour, stalls £14.40

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Feb 13 to 25 VICTORIA WOOD presents her comedy evening LUCKY BAG
Feb 27 to March 3 BENNY GREEN and His Friends Words and Music
March 7 to May 5 LEONARD ROSSITER GEMMA CRAVEN in Joe Orton's LOOT Directed by Jonathan Lynn Evgs 8.00, Mats Tues 3.00, Sats 5.30 & 8.30. Booking at Theatre 01-836 1171, or 01-930 8577. Credit Card Hotline 01-930 9232. Group Sales 01-930 6123.

APOLLO VICTORIA. STARLIGHT EXPRESS Opens March 27 1984. Postal application now booking for March 28-June 23. Eves 8.0. Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 (Prices £14.50, £12.00, £9.50, £6.00) to Starlight Express Box office, Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wilton Road, London S.W.1. Cheques payable to Apollo Victoria Theatre.

APOLLO (Shafts Ave) S 437 2663 CC 930 9232 Mon-Fri 8, Sat 6.30, 8.30. Thur 3. Grp 930 6123 HANNAH GORDON "A masterful portrayal" D. Mail MARTIN SHAW "An electric performance" Gdn JOHN STRIDE "Mesmerising" Times THE COUNTRY GIRL "This great and powerful play" Punch "Gloriously brought to life" D. Mail "Magnificent" N o.W.

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BARBICAN THEATRE. Ton't 7.30 PETER PAN by J. M. Barrie. "Irresistible" F Times '82 - to 28 Jan only. Day seats £4 from 10am. THE PIT. Today 2.00 & 7 30 THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY by Nicholas Wright. "Speed, novelty and a madcap sense of fun." D Tel.

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CRITERION. S 930 3216 930 8577 CC 379 6565 930 9232 Grps 836 3962. Mon to Fri 8.0. Thur mat 2.30. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. The Theatre of Comedy Production JAMES BOLAM IAN OGILVY STRATFORD JOHNS in RUN FOR YOUR WIFE Written & directed by RAY COONEY "A perfect example of British farce at its best" D Mail Nominated SWET 1983 COMEDY OF THE YEAR

DOMINION. Tottenham Ct. Rd 01 580 9562 3. 01-323 1576. Red Price Press from Dec 19 & Tue 20 Dec at 7.30. Opens Dec 21 at 7 00 for the Xmas & New Yr Season WAYNE SLEEP WITH A DASH OF CHRISTMAS cc HOT LINES 01 636 8646. 01-930 9232 Group Sales 01-930 6123

DONMAR WAREHOUSE Earlham St, Cov Gdn. S CC 379 6565. From £3.90 BERTICE READING Musical SPELLBINDER Sat. Buffet from 8pm. SHOW AT 9pm. RECOMMENDED by Sunday Times LATE & LIVE 11pm Bertice Encores with guests £2 Band, Dancing, Food, Drink till 1am

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DUCHESS THEATRE S CC The Beagle Has Landed Nomination for MUSICAL OF THE YEAR ACTOR OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL Teddy Kempner 1983 SWET Awards "An extraordinary achievement" Sunday Telegraph SNOOPY THE MUSICAL OVER 100 PERFORMANCES Box office 01-836 8243 Credit card hot line 01-930 9232 Keith Prowse (no bkg fee) 01-636 8686 Group Sales 01-930 6123 Eves 8 00pm. Fri & Sat 6 00pm & 8 30pm NOW BOOKING TILL MARCH 3 Extra Xmas perfs 26 Dec, 4 & 8pm Special New Year's Eve perfs 2 30 & 6 00 27 Dec 8 00pm, 2 Jan, 6 & 8 30pm "BEST MUSICAL" The Observer

DUKE OF YORK'S 01-836 5122 cc 01-836 0641 Group sales 01 930 6123. Eves 7.30 Mats Weds & Sats at 3.0 DONALD SINDEN BERYL REID MICHAEL DENISON DULCIE GRAY NICOLA PAGETT CLIVE FRANCIS HAROLD INNOCENT and BILL FRASER in JOHN BARTON'S production of THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL For a limited season No perfs Dec 26.

FORTUNE 836 2238. CC hotline 930 9232. Grps 930 6123. Evgs 8.00. Mats (Children ½ price) Thur 5.00. Sat 4.30. DENIS LAWSON Nominated for SWET Award ACTOR OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL "Really funny" Obs MR CINDERS Music by Vivian Ellis "Packed with enchanting songs" Tms

GARRICK CC S 01 836 4601. Evgs 8.00. Wed Mat 3.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.00. (Dec 24 at 5pm only) 13th HYSTERICAL YEAR. LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD NO SEX, PLEASE— WE'RE BRITISH 2 HOURS OF NON-STOP LAUGHTER Directed by Allan Davis Group Sales Box Office 01-930 6123 Credit Card Hotline 01-836 0641 OVER 5,000 FANTASTIC PERFS.

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GREENWICH THEATRE 01-858 7755. Evenings 7.45. Mats Sat 2.30. J B PRIESTLEY'S AN INSPECTOR CALLS

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE 722 9301 Eves 8.0. Sat Mat 4.30. JILL BAKER, RUPERT GRAVES, NICKY HENSON, JENNIFER HILARY, & DINSDALE LANDEN in SUFFICIENT CARBOHYDRATE. "Dennis Potter's ruthless & enjoyable comedy acted by a 24 carat cast" S. Times. Extended to 28 January.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 930 9832. Group Sales 01-930 6123. OMAR SHARIF JUDY CAMPBELL JOHN MOFFATT DEBBIE ARNOLD in THE SLEEPING PRINCE by TERENCE RATTIGAN "THE MOST SPARKLING OF FUN." –D.Tel. "TRIUMPH ... GLOSSY AND SUMPTUOUS PRODUCTION."–D. Mail. "WILL PULL IN THE CROWDS AND MAKE THE BOX OFFICE TILL RING WITH A RIGHT ROYAL ANTHEM."– D.Mail. Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Weds 2.30 Sats 3.00. For a Limited Season. No perfs Dec 24 and 26.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE 930 6606-7 cc 930 4025. 6. Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. Dazzling – there's never been a musical like it BUGSY MALONE on Stage Group Sales 01-930 6123. Credit Card Hotline 01-930 9232 FAMILY PRICES AT MOST PFS. Book your seats at any Keith Prowse branch – no booking fee. BOOK NOW FOR XMAS; EXTRA MATS DEC 22, 27 & 29.

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LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373 Eves 7.30. Mats Wed & Sat 2.45 FIRST EVER STAGE PRODUCTION TOMMY STEELE in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN with ROY CASTLE "SINGIN' IN THE RAIN HAS BROUGHT THE BIG LAVISH MUSICAL BACK TO THE WEST END WITH A VENGEANCE. LAVISH SETS. SUPERB HOLLYWOOD COSTUMES. GLITTERING BUSBY BERKELEY DANCE ROUTINES." Daily Express. "A TRIUMPH FOR STEELE." S. Tel. Credit card hotlines: Tel. 01-437 7373 or 01-437 2055. SOME SEATS AVAILABLE NOW FOR SPECIAL PERFORMANCE ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY. JAN 2 at 7.30

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH S 741 2311 CC 741 0824. (10am-6pm). Daily 2.30 & 7.30. Dec 24 at 2.30 & 6pm. ABBACADABRA LYRIC STUDIO: SHARED EXPERIENCE. Last Perf Ton't 8.0. FALSE ADMISSIONS. From Tues Lindsay Holiday in AIN'T WE GOT FUN.

LYRIC THEATRE Shaftesbury Avenue 437 3686 S Credit Card Bookings 434 1050. Eves 7.30. Wed Mat 3.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.15. (No perfs Dec 23 & 24 but Box Office open from 10am to 6pm. Plays Dec 26 at 5.0 & 8.15, Dec 31 at 5.0 only). Society of West End Theatre Awards FOUR NOMINATIONS Actor of the Year in a new play MICHAEL WILLIAMS Actress of the Year in a new play JUDI DENCH Actress of the Year in a supporting role BARBARA LEIGH-HUNT and PLAY OF THE YEAR JUDI DENCH MICHAEL WILLIAMS RICHARD VERNON BARBARA LEIGH-HUNT PACK OF LIES by Hugh Whitemore Directed by Clifford Williams "PACK OF LIES IS THE WEST END AT ITS BEST", Spectator.

LYTTELTON (NT's proscenium stage). Today 2 30 & 7.30. Mon 2 30 (low price mat) & 7.30. CINDERELLA family Christmas pantomime.

MAYFAIR S CC 629 3036. Mon-Thur 8. Fri & Sat 5.40 & 8.10. Group 930 6123 RICHARD TODD ERIC LANDER, VIRGINIA STRIDE in THE BUSINESS OF MURDER "The best thriller for years" S Mir. "An unabashed winner" S.Exp "A thriller that achieves it all. Sensational!" Times. "The most ingenious mystery to have appeared in a decade. A play to be seen" Daily Mail THIRD GREAT YEAR OVER 1,000 PERFORMANCES

MAYFAIR 01-629 3037 From Dec 19-Jan 7 – Twice daily 2.0, 4.0 Wed, Sats 10.30, 2.0 and 4.0 SOOTY'S CHRISTMAS SHOW

NATIONAL THEATRE. S. 928 2252. FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER, LYTTELTON, COTTESLOE. Excellent cheap seats all 3 theatres from 10 a.m. day of perf. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933. NOW BOOKING ALL PERFS TO END JANUARY TOURS OF THE BUILDING (inc backstage) £1 50. Inf. 633 0880

NEW LONDON cc Drury Lane WC2 01-405 0072 or 01-404 4079 Evgs 7.45 Tues & Sat 3.0 & 7.45. N.B. No matinees on Tues 27th extra perf Wed 28th at 3 00pm. THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T. S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Group Bookings 01-405 1567 or 01 930 6123. Apply daily to Box Office for returns. LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open 6 45pm NEW BOOKING PERIOD NOW OPEN TILL AUG '84 THE LONGER YOU WAIT THE LONGER YOU'LL WAIT

OLD VIC 928 7616. cc 261 1821 Eves 7 30. Wed Mat 2.30. Sat 4 00 & 7 45 "THE MOST INVIGORATING MUSICAL IN YEARS" D Express TIM RICE & STEPHEN OLIVER'S "Magical Minstrel Show." Ml on Sun. BLONDEL starring PAUL NICHOLAS "Glittering & entertaining." D Tel "THE WITTIEST & FUNNIEST MUSICAL I'VE SEEN IN YEARS ... SEE IT FOR ITS FUN," Derek Jewell, S. Tms. SMASH HIT SEASON ENDS HERE 14 JAN. TRIUMPHANT RUN CONTINUES ALDWYCH 20 JAN. See six hit shows (inc Blondel) for only £10! Subscription bkg still open.

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 TIMOTHY WEST in MASTER CLASS a new play by David Pownall From 18 Jan for a limited season. BOOKING NOW OPEN.

OLIVIER (NT's open stage) Ton't 2.00 & 7.15 JEAN SEBERG the musical drama by Marvin Hamlisch, Adler, and Barry. Mon 7.15 TALES FROM HOLLYWOOD by Christopher Hampton

PALACE 437 6834 cc 437 8327 Now booking through 1983 "Andrew Lloyd Webber's LATEST TRIUMPH" D Exp. SONG AND DANCE Starring LIZ ROBERTSON in TELL ME ON A SUNDAY and GRAHAM FLETCHER in VARIATIONS. "An explosion of magic. Superb stuff. Run to it" Sunday Times. Eves 8.0. Sat 5 45 & 8 30. Some good seats still available most perfs. (Special Christmas Matinees Dec 20, 27, and Jan 4.) Group sales 437 6834 or 930 6123. SECOND GREAT YEAR CHRISTMAS WEEK AT THE PALACE Special lunchtime festivities DEC 19-DEC 23 A variety of seasonal entertainment. Mulled wine, bar drinks & Christmas food available from noon. Perf at 1pm. Adults £2 Children & Senior citizens £1. Call box office for further details

PHOENIX THEATRE Charing X Road Tel 836 8611, 9793. 2294 Group Sales 01-930 6123 Spectacular Traditional Pantomime SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS Starring DANA with MIKE NEWMAN featuring Seven Dwarfs and Music made famous by the Walt Disney film Wed, Thurs Sat Mats 2 30, Evgs 7 30 (ex 24 Dec – 2 30 only) Reduced Prices for Children

PICCADILLY. Open from 7 00pm to 2.00am. COCKTAILS – SUPPER – DANCING – MIDNIGHT CABARET. Nightly at 9pm A CABARET MUSICAL "Y" Starring Arturo Brachetti Nominated the most promising newcomer SWET AWARD 1983 Directed by Jean Marie Riviere "A REMARKABLE NIGHT OUT" Gdn. "TREMENDOUS SPECTACLE. TREMENDOUS FUN" BBC. AN EVENING FROM £9.50 Reservations 437 4506. Credit cards 379 6565/930 9232 Grps 836 3962. BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTIES NOW! NEW YEARS EVE 9pm to 4am BALLETS RUSSES BALL Dress: Ballets Russes, Imperial Russia, Black Tie. Tkts £80, from the box office only, include bottle of champagne per couple.

PICCADILLY. Entrance from 11pm £5. Licensed until 2am. Music, Dancing, MIDNIGHT CABARET. CLEM CURTIS & THE FOUNDATIONS. Supper available.

PRINCE EDWARD. Tel 01-437 6877 S Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's EVITA Directed by Hal Prince. Evgs. 8.0. Mats Thurs & Sat at 3.0 Evg perfs end 10.15. C.C. Hotline 439 8499. Group Sales 930 6123 or Box Office.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. 01 930 8681 cc 01-930 0844. Credit card hotline 930 9232. Grp Sales 01-930 6123. Previewing from Dec 23, Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30. Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30 DANNY LA RUE sensational return to the West End in a stunning New Production of HELLO, DOLLY! with LIONEL JEFFRIES

QUEENS c.c. 01-734 1166, 439 3849/4031. Group Sales 01-930 6123. PENELOPE KEITH "Dazzling comic performance" Gdn. IN HAY FEVER BY NOEL COWARD Evgs Mon-Fri 7.30 Mats Weds 3 0. Sats 5.0 & 8.15. Booking until April 1984.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR CC 734 1593. Mon-Sat 7 pm, 9 pm, 11 pm. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. Now! New acts. New thrills. New sensations for this our SILVER JUBILEE 1958-1983.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS 748 3354 Until 23 Dec Hot foot from California – THE JAZZ TAP ENSEMBLE USA Eves Tues to Sun 8 0, Mat Sun 2.30 "Wonderful music, wonderful dancing" Village Voice.

ROYAL COURT S CC 730 1745. FALKLAND SOUND "a devastating experience... high-class theatrical journalism" Gdn. "the best play in London" Obs. Evgs. 8pm. Sat. mat. 4pm. Mon. & Sat. mat. £2.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE UPSTAIRS 730 2554. YPTS BELIEVE IT OR NOT By Dawn Scott & ROLE PLAY by Yasmine Judd. Evgs. 7.30.

SAVOY. Box Office 01-836 8888 Credit Cards only 01-836 0641. Evgs 7.45, Wed 3.0, Sat 5.0 & 8.30. BEST COMEDY OF YEAR Standard Drama Award AND Society of West End Theatres Award JOHN QUAYLE AMANDA BARRIE ROBERT FLEMYNG CHRISTOPHER GODWIN LYNDA BELLINGHAM BERNARD HOLLEY MICHAEL FRAYN'S NEW COMEDY NOISES OFF directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE. "The funniest play I have ever seen in the West End" Times.

SHAFTESBURY Shaftesbury Avenue THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY presents Michael Denison, Liza Goddard, Carol Hawkins, Maureen Lipman, Royce Mills, Derek Nimmo, Bill Pertwee, Christopher Timothy in PHILIP KING'S Famous Farce SEE HOW THEY RUN Directed by RAY COONEY Previews from February 8 Box Office 01-836 6596 or 01-836 4255 or 01-930 8577. Credit Card Hotline 01-930 9232 Group Sales Box office 01-930 6123.

SHAFTESBURY, Shaftesbury Ave. THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY Family Christmas Pantomime Twice Daily 2.30 & 7.30 Royal Gala Performance Dec 20 ALADDIN Richard O'SULLIVAN Jill GASCOINE Derek GRIFFITHS Roy KINNEAR Lynsey DE PAUL Tommy TRINDER Edmund HOCKRIDGE Derek ROYLE David JANSON Tudor DAVIES & Doreen WELLS in ALADDIN NOW BOOKING LIMITED SEASON HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! Some perfs already sold out ALADDIN Prices: £8.50, £7.50, £6.00, £4.00. Box Office 01-930 8577. Credit Card Hotline 01-930 9232. Group Sales 01-930 6123.

SHAW 388 7727 cc 387 6293 NORMAN ROSSINGTON as MOTHER GOOSE Opens 12 Dec £2 children £4 adults.

STRAND WC2 01-836 2660/4143. Credit Cards only 01-836 0641. Evgs 7.30, Wed 2.30. Sat 5.0 & 8.30 BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR Standard Drama Award and Plays and Players London Critics Award Susan Penhaligon Paul Shelley Judy Geeson Richard Warwick in TOM STOPPARD'S new play THE REAL THING Directed by Peter Wood

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 295623. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in TWELFTH NIGHT "... a night to remember" Guardian. Today 1.30 THE COMEDY OF ERRORS "... inspired lunacy ... full of glorious belly laughs" D. Mail. Ton't 7.30 MEASURE FOR MEASURE "... unbearably thrilling" D. Tel. Mon 7.30 HENRY VIII "... a constant feast for the eyes" Spectator. Tues 7.30. For special meal/theatre deals and hotel stopover ring 0789 67262.

ST. MARTIN'S. 836 1443. Special CC No 930 9232 Evgs 8.00, Tues 2.45, Sats (& Dec 26) 5 00 & 8.00 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 32nd YEAR Sorry, no reduced prices from any source, but seats bookable from £3.00

VAUDEVILLE WC2 836 9988 cc 836 0641. Group Sales 930 6123. "PERFECT CRIME THRILLER" Mirror HAYLEY MILLS SIMON WARD & PETER ADAMSON in DIAL M FOR MURDER by Frederick Knott. Directed by Allan Davis "AS MUCH FUN AS EVER" Times Evgs 8 00 Mats Weds 2.45 Sats 5.00

VICTORIA PALACE. 834 1317. 828 4735 Opens December 22. SIMON CADELL, PAUL SHANE, RUTH MADOC, JEFFREY HOLLAND, FELIX BOWNESS, BARRY HOWARD, BEN WARRISS and SU POLLARD in The Fun Packed Holiday Musical For All The Family HI-DE-HI With TV's star cast. Prevs Dec 19, 20, 21 (Dec 19 7.30) evgs twice nightly 6 & 8.30 Box office open, prices £3, £7.50. FOR A LIMITED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON

WESTMINSTER Palace St, SW1 01 834 0283. CC 01-836 0641 The Famous Children's Musical TOAD OF TOAD HALL. by A. A. MILNE 1 45 & 4.45 Daily Seats £6 50, £5 50, £4.50

WYNDHAM'S S 836 3028 cc 379 6565 930 9232. Grps 836 3962. Eves 8 15, Sat 5 00 & 8.30. JOHN MILLS "What a night. What a Knight!" D Mir ANTHONY BATE CONNIE BOOTH and GLYN HOUSTON in LITTLE LIES "THE BEST FUN TO BE HAD" Daily Tel. "MADHOUSE" Times.

YOUNG VIC 928 6363 Ton't 7.0, Mon, Tues 2pm. SWAN ESTHER. The Matchless Musical for Christmas and The New Year. Seats £2.50, Parties £2. HARVEY & THE WALLBANGERS. Ton't Dec 21, 22, 23, 28 at 9.30pm.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. Isabelle Huppert in AT FIRST SIGHT (15), at 2.00 (not Sun), 4.10, 6.20, 8.45.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Claude Goretta's prize winning THE DEATH OF MARIO RICCI (PG). Progs 2 30 (not Sun), 4.30, 6 35, 8.45.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Simone Signoret in L'ETOILE DU NORD (PG) at 4 00, 6.15, 8.35.

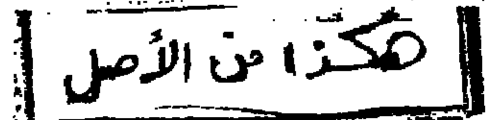
CAMDEN PLAZA 485 2443, opp Camden Town Tube. Wajda's Prizewinning film DANTON (PG). Extended run. Film at: 3.30, 6.00, 8.40pm. Closed Dec 24 & 25.

CHELSEA CINEMA 351 3742. 200 Kings Road, SW3 (Sloane Sq tube). Truffaut's FINALLY, SUNDAY! (PG) Film at 1.45, 4.00, 6.20, 8.45. Advance booking for 8.45 Perf. Access Visa. Closed Dec 24 & 25.

CURZON, Curzon St. W1. 499 3737 Mon 19 Dec 2.0 & 4.10 perf cancelled. Jeremy Irons, Ben Kingsley, Patricia Hodge "Are all superb" F. Times in Harold Pinter's BETRAYAL (15) "A film not to be missed" Barry Norman Film 83. Progs at 2.00 (NOT SUN), 4.10, 6.20, 8 40

GATE BLOOMSBURY, 1 & 2. 837 8402 1177. Russell Sq Tube. 1: ZELIG (PG) 4.15, 5.45, 7.15, 9.00. N.C.P. parking 30p anytime Sat & Sun, Mon-Fri after 6pm. 2: THE LEOPARD (PG) 4.20, 7.45. Lic'd Bar Access Visa

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL. Green Pk. Tb ZELIG (PG) 5 00, 6 30, 8.00, 9.30.



Entertainments

CINEMAS

GATE NOTTING HILL. 221 0220/727 5750. Judy Garland, James Mason in A STAR IS BORN (U). 1.30, 4.45, 8.00. LN 11.15pm MAD MAX 2 (18), MAD MAX (18).

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). CUJO (18). Sep progs Wks 1.45, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50. Sep progs Sun 4.05, 6.25, 8.50. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.45pm. No Advance Booking.

LUMIERE 836 0691 St Martin's Lane WC2 (Leicester Sq Tube) DAVID BOWIE in ZIGGY STARDUST (PG). Film at 1.20, 3.10, 5.05, 7.05, 9.10. Advance booking for 9.10. Perf. Access/Visa. Closed Dec 24 & 25.

MINEMA 45 KNIGHTSBRIDGE Tel. 235 4225-6. "BIDDY" (U) Progs daily 3.0 5.0 7.0 9.0. "The perfect Christmas entertainment" (Standard). CLOSED DEC. 24-25-26.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738) LA TRAVIATA (U). Sep. progs daily 1.45, 5.35, 8.25. ALL SEATS BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE. TELEPHONE BOOKINGS WITH ACCESS AND VISA WELCOME.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) FOR INFO 930 4280. 4259 WALT DISNEY'S THE JUNGLE BOOK (U). MICKEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL (U). Sep progs Doors open dly 2.00, 5.00, 8.00. Advance Booking for 8.00 prog Mon-Fri and all progs Sat & Sun by post or at Box Office. Access and Visa accepted for advance booking only.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH W2 (723 2011) cont progs OCTOPUSSY (PG). Daily 1.45 (not Sun) 8.30 FOR YOUR EYES ONLY (PG) Daily 3.55 DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER (PG) Daily 6.10 Reduced prices for children. No advance booking.

SCREEN ON THE HILL 435 3366. James Stewart, Grace Kelly in Hitchcock's REAR WINDOW (PG). 2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.15 Lic Bar. Seats bookable. Club show first memb.

WARNER WEST END LEIC. SQ. (439 0791) Richard Attenborough's Film GANDHI (PG). Doors 2.00, 6.45pm. No Advance Booking.

EXHIBITIONS

YOUNG BLOOD. Open today 10-7. Adm £3 (£2 after 4.00 Tues-Fri) Art Gallery Barbican Centre, EC2. 638 4141

"PRINCE ALBERT his life and work." Royal College of Art. Daily 10-6.30. Wednesday 10-8.

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY D'OFFAY 9 & 23 Dering St. W1 December exhibition: Paintings, drawings and sculpture 1890-1983, Bevan, Bomberg, Gilbert and George, Kiefer, Long, etc

BANKSIDE GALLERY GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS by the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours and the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers. 6th-20th December. Gallery open Tues-Sat, 10-5. Suns 2-6. Closed Mons. 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, SE1. Tel: 01-928 7521.

BRITISH LIBRARY, Gt. Russell St, WC1. The English Provincial Printer 1700-1800. Until 29 Jan. The Mirror of the World: antiquarian maps. Until 31 Dec. Wkdys 10-5. Suns 2.30-6. Adm free.

BROWSE & DARBY, 19 Cork St., W1. 01-734 7984. James Reeve. Paintings and Watercolours.

CHRISTOPHER WOOD GALLERY, 15, Motcomb Street, London, SW1. 235 9141. CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Inexpensive Victorian pictures. Until December 24th Weekdays 9.30-5.30. Saturday 10.00am-1pm.

CHRISTOPHER HULL GALLERY, 570 Fulham Rd, SW6. 01 736 4120. Michael Ayrton & Contemporary Graphics.

FISCHER FINE ART 30 King St, St James's, SW1. 839 3942. An Anthology of European Architectural Drawings, 16th to 20th Century. Until 22 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.30.

HAYWARD GALLERY (Arts Council) South Bank, SE1 RAOUL DUFY sponsored by Cognac Courvoisier, and HOCKNEY'S PHOTOGRAPHS. Mon-Wed 10-8, Thurs-Sat 10-6, Sat 12-6. Adm £2, concessionary rate £1, all day Mon and 6-8 Tues and Wed. Info 01-261 0127

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton Street, W1. 01-493 1572 Important XIX and XX century works of art on view. November 23-December 21. Mon-Fri: 10-5 and Sats. 10-12.30.

LEGER, 13 Old Bond St. Annual Exhibition – English Watercolours. Until Xmas. Mon-Fri.

LEINSTER FINE ART. 9 Hereford Rd, W2. 01 229 9985. TOUJOURS L'ELEGANCE Modern jewellery and hats for special occasions by Malcolm Appleby, Helaine Blumenfeld & Florencio Morgado. Mon-Thurs 10-6, Sat 11-5

MALL GALLERIES, The Mall, SW1. New English Art Club Exhibition 8-21 Dec. Daily 10-5. Adm £1

MARLBOROUGH GRAPHICS GALLERY Inaugural Exhibition of 19th & 20th Century Master Prints, including works by Munch, Nolde, Picasso, Pissarro, Kitaj and Hockney. Daily 10-5.30. Sats 10-12.30. 39 Old Bond St W1 Tel: 01 629 5161

ODETTE GILBERT GALLERY, 5 Cork St, W1. 01 437 3175. The Newest Gallery in London, specializing in Living British Artists is now open Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Sat 10-1

PARKIN GALLERY 11 Motcomb St, SW1. 01-235 8144 LOUIS WAIN'S CATS OF FAME AND PROMISE. Dec 14-Jan 8

PICCADILLY GALLERY, 16 Cork St. W1 629 2875 20th Century British and Continental Drawings and Watercolours. 6-22 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Thurs until 7 and Sats 10-12.30.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Open 10-6 daily. THE GENIUS OF VENICE 1500-1600. Until 11 March (closed 24-25 Dec). Adm £3.50, Suns until 1.45 and Concessionary Rate £2.

SERPENTINE GALLERY, Kensington Gardens, W2. (Arts Council). Gillian Ayres: recent paintings. Daily 10-4, until 8 Jan. Free.

TATE GALLERY, Millbank, SW1. JOHN PIPER paintings, stained glass, ceramics, fabrics, theatre designs. Until 22 Jan. Adm £1.50. Sculpture and drawings by REG BUTLER, 1913-81. Until 15 Jan. RICHARD HAMILTON. Graphic Work. Until 12 Feb. Adm free. Wkdys 10-5.30. Suns 2-5.30. Recorded info 01-821 7128.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S Kensington. British 20th Century Art & Design, new display. RICHARD DOYLE: A Christmas Exhibition. Until 26 Feb. DAVID COX. Oil Paintings & Watercolours. Until 8 Jan. OLIVER MESSEL. Until 15 Jan. MARKETA LUSKACOVA: Photographs. Until 26 Feb. ISLAMIC BOOKBINDINGS. Until 4 March. Adm free. Wkdays 10-5.50. Suns 2.30-5.50. Closed Fridays. Recorded info: 01-581 4894

WILDENSTEIN 147 New Bond St, W1 629 0602. REINE ATAZAN-Gouaches. Until 21 Dec. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30. Sats 10-12.30.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

RENTALS

continued from page 28

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£50 PER DAY+. Exp. gentleman (28) seeks employment. No ties, just enthusiasm. Anything legal considered. Phone Alan 0246 418709 at 6pm.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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THE PIANO WORKSHOP. Agents for all leading makes of new pianos. Generous credit terms. Catalogue. 2 Fleet Rd., NW3. 01 267 7671 7 days.

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FOOD AND WINE

SMOKED SCOTCH SALMON. a) Standard side £9.75. b) Sliced side £10.25. c) De luxe side (sliced & gift wrapped) £11.25. Add £1 post. Clearwater Products (T), East Hendred, Oxon. Access. 023588 732.

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LEGAL NOTICES

RE. CHERWELL FABRICS LIMITED (In Voluntary Liquidation)

and the Companies Act. 1948

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required on or before 19 January 1984 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned, B Phillips, FCA, of Arthur Andersen & Co. PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT, the liquidator of the said company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 8th December 1983.

B PHILLIPS
Chartered Accountant

LEGAL NOTICES

LETRASET SECURITIES Ltd (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required on or before the 22nd December 1983 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their Debts or Claims to the undersigned, Ian Peter Phillips, FCA of Arthur Andersen & Co. PO BOX 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing prove their said Debts or Claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such Debts are proved.
Dated this 8th day of December, 1983
IAN PETER PHILLIPS
Chartered Accountant

BUY RITE Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company are required on or before 27 January 1984 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned Clive R. Sherling at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 8th day of December 1983
C. R. SHERLING
Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 006742 of 1983
Re: LEOPOLD LAZARUS (METAL BROKERS) LIMITED and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948.
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 28th day of November 1983 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company from £1,900,000 to £46,988 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 2nd day of December 1983.
Dated the 17th day of December 1983.
LINKLATERS & PAINES
Solicitors to the Company

RE: DOUGHTY & WELLERBY LTD.
and
The Companies Act 1948
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT on Wednesday, 4 January 1984 at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
Dated this 13 day of September 1983.
KENNETH MICHAEL DOUGHTY
Director

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s 27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice

DONELL BEATRICE MAY of flat 17, Berridge House, Mill Road, Maldon, Essex died on the 13th October 1983. Particulars to Mitchell Caulkett & Colley, 22 High Street, Maldon Essex. CM9 7PJ Before February 12th 1984

WILSON, GLADYS EVELYN of 8 Sutton Passeys Crescent, Wollaton Park, Nottingham, died on 2nd March, 1982. Particulars to E. Lloyd, Messrs Swayne Johnson & Wight, Solicitors of 2 Hall Square, Denbigh, Clwyd, before 1st March, 1984

PREVIEW Films

Battle for a breakthrough

"I want you to knock my socks off!" Cliff Robertson tells the hero of *Brainstorm*. It is a strange remark for an actor who generally passes through films without raising an eyebrow. But extreme circumstances breed extreme reactions, and Robertson is about to witness a colossal technological breakthrough.

With the aid of a headset, video tape and years of secret research, mankind can now plug itself into a person's thoughts, feelings and physical sensations. The test tape takes Robertson hunting, motorcycling and rushing down a tube into water. But other tapes are far less innocent: one comes labelled "Psychotic Episode – Extreme Version"; another records a character's death.

In the story, the breakthrough was accomplished by Christopher Walken and Louise Fletcher, research scientists for and American corporation; in reality, credit belongs to Douglas Trumbull, the special effects wizard making his first film as director since the beguiling *Silent Running* (1971). Trumbull has been far from idle, however: he supervised the effects for *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the first *Star Trek* film and *Blade Runner*. He has also developed a new widescreen process called Showscan, which photographs and projects high-definition images at top speed (60 frames per second, rather than 24) and requires custom-built cinemas.

Brainstorm was once envisaged as a Showscan project, though it ran into sufficient problems using conventional movie technology. Many stemmed from the tragic drowning of co-star Natalie Wood in November 1981. Several weeks of shooting and all the elaborate special effects still lay ahead, but the MGM money men were tempted to repair their parlous finances by abandoning the film and collecting over 12 million dollars of insurance money from Lloyds.

Trumbull pleaded for completion, and production resumed in February 1982, using almost $3m provided by Lloyds. Wood's death only necessitated some minor re-allocation of dialogue.

Yet MGM still wavered, and even allowed Lloyds to approach outside distributors to handle the project. Once outsiders showed interest, however, MGM jealously jumped back into the fray, fixed up a further deal with Lloyds to complete post-production work.

Trumbell himself has emerged from the battle weary of Hollywood, and plans to concentrate on experimental films for the Showscan system. His own comments on *Brainstorm* seem peculiarly appropriate in the circumstances: "This movie's really a love story, and it's about determination; it's about integrity. It's about not letting business get in the way of art or science."

Geoff Brown


Hands on head: Natalie Wood, who died while filming Brainstorm

Brainstorm (cert 15) opens in London on Fri at the Empire, Leicester Square (437 1234).

Critics' choice

JAWS III D (PG)
ABC Bayswater (229 4149)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
Classic Oxford Street (636 0310)
Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)
and on national release
A must for anyone still anxious to get his teeth into a good disaster/horror movie. The poor old great white shark is once again the villain of the piece, this time pitting his wits and outsize jaws against the well-meaning scientists running a kind of super underwater theme park in Florida. The implausible plot is redeemed by the use of a new 3-D technique which uses only one camera to shoot two images on a split beam.

LIQUID SKY (18)
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)
ICA Cinema (930 3647, closed Mon)
Unique and outrageous blend of punk musical, fashion show and science-fiction parody, filmed in New York by a group of Russian emigrés clearly delighting in Western decadence. New Wave dignitary Anne Carlisle stars as the Manhattan beauty whose roof plays host to an alien visitor hooked on heroin. Directed by Slava Tsukerman.

MARY POPPINS (U)
The Royal, Charing Cross Road (930 6915)
Disney's famous musical about an Edwardian nanny with magical gifts; full of high spirits, jolly songs and technical wizardry. Made in 1964, with Julie Andrews, David Tomlinson, Glynis Johns, Dick Van Dyke.

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN (PG)
ABC Bayswater (229 4149)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)
Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148)
Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300)
Warner West End (439 0791)
and on national release
"Never", Sean Connery used to say when asked to play James Bond again after relinquishing the role in 1971. Yet here he is – older, less jaunty, but still primed for action – trying to prevent the world's destruction in a renegade Bond adventure.

OLIVER TWIST (PG)
Classic Tottenham Court Road, for matinee shows only (636 6148)
A new version of the Charles Dickens novel, made with an eye on television. Unambitious direction by Clive Donner, but the character actors are hard at work: George C. Scott as Fagin, Michael Hordern as Mr Brownlow and Tim Curry as Bill Sikes.

TRADING PLACES (15)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Empire Leicester Square (437 1234)
A smug white pillar of Wall Street is forced to swap fortunes with a resilient black conman. John Landis's comedy avoids trenchant satire and lacks the rigorous wit of its Hollywood ancestors, but performances and details please. Viewed by a large audience bent on *enjoyment*, its success seems guaranteed. With Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy, Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, Jamie Curtis.

Films on TV

"How old Cary Grant?" cabled the editor of a fan magazine. "Old Cary Grant fine", came the riposte, "how you?" He is still fine, though long since retired from movies, and next month he celebrates his eightieth birthday. For BBC2 and Channel 4, however, the celebration starts this week.

Picking the best from more than 70 films covering 34 years is ultimately a matter of opinion but a case can be made for the screwball comedies directed by Howard Hawks, in which the suave and assured Grant persona is undermined and humiliated to hilarious effect.

In *Monkey Business* (1952), on Channel 4 today (2.25-4.15pm), he takes a drug which produces a reversion to childhood; in *I Was a Male War Bride* (1949), Channel 4 tomorrow (10.25pm-12.20am), he is forced to dress up as a woman; and in *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), the BBC2 offering on Monday (3.55-5.35pm), he tries to cope with a baby leopard.

Other Grant films this week, all on BBC2, are: *Night and Day* (1946), today (8.50-10.58pm); *Mr Lucky* (1943), Tues (4-5.35pm); *Every Girl Should Be Married* (1948), Wed (4.15-5.35pm); *Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House* (1948), Thurs (3.30-5pm); and *The Grass is Greener* (1960), Fri (3.55-5.35pm). The season continues up to the new year.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended:

Point Blank (1967): Lee Marvin with a score to settle in John Boorman's fine, uncompromising, location-shot gangster piece; Angie Dickinson and Keenan Wynn in support (BBC1, Mon, 9.25-10.55pm).

Rollerball (1975)*: James Caan, John Houseman and Ralph Richardson in Norman Jewison's vision of the twenty-first century, expressed through a violent combination of football and hockey (BBC2, Tues, 9-11pm).

The General (1926): Buster Keaton's most popular and finely realized comedy about a locomotive during the American Civil War; one of four Keaton films on Channel 4 this week (Wed, 5-6.30pm).

The Dirty Dozen (1967)*: Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine and Charles Bronson are among lifers recruited for a commando suicide mission; a huge commercial success for its director, Robert Aldrich, who died recently (BBC1, Fri, 10.05pm-12.30am).

Monkey Business (1931): Inaugurates a season of six Marx Brothers' films on BBC2 over the Christmas period; this is the one in which Groucho and company are discovered as stowaways on an ocean liner (BBC2, Fri, 10.30-11.45pm).

*First British television showing.

PREVIEW Music

Concerts

FRENCH FESTIVITY
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 930 9232)
The Wigmore Christmas concert, by various artists, continues the current season's French tendency with music by Saint-Saëns, Messager, Chabrier, Debussy, Satie, and Poulenc.

EASY WINNERS
Today, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
Naomi Davidov plays rags by Joplin and his contemporaries on the piano. They include *Easy Winners, Magnetic Rag, Pastimes, Nightingale Rag, Solace.*

HAYDN'S FAREWELL
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Nothern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061-273 5404)
The RNCM chamber orchestra under Malcolm Layfield ends term with Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony after playing two rareties – Howard Ferguson's Concerto (soloist, Kathryn Turner) and Bliss's Music for Strings.

BEETHOVEN QUARTETS
Tomorrow, 6.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (242 8032)
For the last South Place concert before Christmas, the Amphion Quartet play Beethoven's Quartet Op 18 No 5, Op 132 and Op 135.

ALL STRINGS
Mon, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
The Divertimenti String Orchestra performs Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, Tchaikovsky's Serenade, Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante K364 (with Norbert Brainin, violin, and Perter Schidlof, viola, of the American Quartet). John Lubbock conducts.

FAR AWAY PRINCESS
Mon, 8pm, St John's
Various artists unite in the Footstall Restaurant for a supper recital with the title *The Far Away Princess*. It is a programme of music by Madeleine Dring (1923-77), including settings of Shakespeare and Betjeman.

RAVEL VARESE
Tues, 7.30pm, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
The Ravel/Varèse Festival continues with David Atherton conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the former's *Rapsodie espagnole, La Valse* and Concerto in G (Paul Crossley, piano), and the latter's *Ameriques*.

GRAINGER
Tues, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
With four hands at one piano, Allen Schiller and John Humphreys play Grainger's *Let's Dance Gay in Green Meadow*, Debussy's *Eprigraphes antiques*, Mozart's Sonata K 521, Schubert's F minor Fantasy D 940 and the London premiere of Malcolm Hawkins's *On Stage*.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTO I
Wed, 7.30pm, St James's, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 1316)
A new chamber orchestra with an international flavour, Per Musica, makes its debut with Corelli's "Christmas" Concerto Op 6 No 8, *Schubert's Symphony No 5*, Ibert's Flute Concerto (soloist, Sjaak Zoon) and Ravel's *Ma Mere l'oye*. Julian Reynolds conducts.

POTT PREMIERE
Wed, 7.30pm, St John's
The choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, gives the world premiere of Francis Pott's *Nunc natus est Altissimus, preceding it* with Tippett's Five Spirituals, Poulenc's Four Christmas Motets and a William Byrd group.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTO II
Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
Trevor Pinnock directs the English Consort in Corelli's "Christmas" Concerto Op 6 No 8, Albinoni's *Concerto à cinque* Op 9 No 2, Handel's Organ Concerto Op 4 No 2, J. S. Bach's Concerto BWV 1060 and Telemann's enthralling Violin Concerto in B flat.

TWO IMPS
Fri, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
The National Children's Orchestra is conducted by Vivienne Price in Alford's *Two Imps*, Gillis's *Man Who Invented Music*, Adam's *Si j'etais roi* Overture, Delius's *La calinda*, the Rossini-Britten *Soirées musicales*, Mussorgsky's *Night on a Bare Mountain*, and others.

Opera

COVENT GARDEN
Christmas starts at the Royal Opera House with a revival of *Die Fledermaus*, with Placido Domingo conducting for the first time in the Covent Garden pit. Kiri te Kanawa and Hermann Prey return to the cast, Michael Langdon comes out *of retirement as Colonel Frank*, and Doris Soffel (Sextus in the recent *La Clemenza*) sings the first mezzo Orlofsky of this production. First night Mon with further performances on Wed, followed by a matinée on Dec 26 and a 6.30pm show on Dec 31. (240 1066)

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Something characteristically different for seasonal entertainment at the Coliseum: Janaček's delightful man-in-the-moon dream fantasy *The Adventures of Mr Brouček's* returns on Fri with further performances on Dec 29, and 31 and on into Jan. Janaček veteran Charles Mackerras conducts a cast which includes Gregory Dempsey and Patricia O'Neill. The choice is *Madam Butterfly* (tonight and Wed) and a none-too-sunny, but well sung and played production of Gounod's Provençale opera *Mireille* on Thurs and Dec 30, with Valerie Masterson in the title role and Serge Baudo in the pit. (836 3161)

OPERA NORTH
Two new productions start the Christmas season at Leeds: *Il Trovatore* in Italian conducted by Yan Pascal Tortelier (Wed, Fri and Dec 29); and *Eugene Onegin* (Thurs and Dec 28 and 30), directed by Graham Vick with Jonathan Summers as Onegin and Ellene Hannan as Tatyana. (0532 459351)

HANSEL AND GRETEL
Christopher Fifield conducts a cast of young opera singers in a new production with a new translation, at the Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1. (387 9629). Sheila Steefel is the Witch.

Rock & Jazz

TINA TURNER
Tonight to Tues, The Venue, 160 Victoria Street, London SW1 (828 9441)
The wildest mother-of-four in pop history, Mrs Turner has been done proud by the British producers of "Let's Stay Together".

THE POLICE
Tonight, St Austell Coliseum; Tues, NEC, Birmingham; Fri, Brighton Centre.
Who controls a stadium audience with more authority than Sting?

ROBERT PLANT
Tonight, Brighton Centre; tomorrow, Oxford Apollo; Tues, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; Wed, De Montfort Hall, Leicester; Fri, Birmingham Odeon
The ex-Led Zeppelin singer takes his new solo material on the road.

GEORGE MELLY
Tonight and Mon to Sat until Dec 31, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (439 0747)
The annual Melly knees-up, climaxing on New Year's Eve.

PAUL YOUNG
Tonight, Royal Court, Liverpool; tomorrow, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; Mon, De Montfort Hall, Leicester; Tues, Birmingham Odeon; Thurs, Brighton Centre; Fri/Sat, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
A real blue-eyed soul singer, sometimes swamped by too-abrasive accompaniment.

JAZZ CENTRE SOCIETY
Tonight, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (636 0933)
The JCS's Christmas party features Dave Bitelli's excellent Onward International and the all-women Guest Stars.

PEACE BENEFIT
Tomorrow, Apollo Victoria, Wilton Road, London SW1 (828 8665)
The stars include Elvis Costello, Ian Dury, Paul Weller's Style Council, U2 and Mari Wilson. Two hundred tickets will be available on the night.

ASWAD
Tues, Lyceum, Wellington Street, London WC2 (836 3715)
Their new mini-LP *Live and Direct* confirms their standing as the Wailers' only heirs among contemporary reggae bands.

MADNESS
Wed, Lyceum
Still the nutty North Londoners, but constantly broadening their range, Madness present a Christmas extravaganza.

IAN STEWART
Fri, 100 Club
The "sixth Rolling Stone" leads a blues band including Charlie Watts.

Films: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 226)

Prizes of the New Collins Concise English dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 22, 1983. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 24, 1983.

ACROSS
1 Appointments (5)
4 Hindrance (3,4)
8 Beaver-like rodent (5)
9 Local (7)
10 Figurative allusion (8)
11 Heredity unit (4)
13 Astir (5)
15 Sylvan deity (5)
19 Undersize person (4)
20 Epilepsy (5,3)
23 Similarity (7)
24 Strict vegetarian (5)
25 Distemper (7)
26 Superlative little (5)

DOWN
1 Abscond (5)
2 Secret meeting (5)
3 Figure carver (8)
4 Everyday light play (6)
5 Binding strip (4)
6 Magic (7)
7 Slaughterer (6)
12 Festive occasion (8)
14 Amusement park (7)
16 Exhaled air (6)
17 Became irritated (6)
18 Celestial body (6)
21 Earth's crust liquid (5)
22 Noose (4)

SOLUTION TO No 225
ACROSS: 1 Tricked 5 Lymph 8 Ova 9 Impound 10 Cards 11 Flak 12 Statice 14 Roller coaster 16 Uncouth 18 Slap 21 Roost 22 Face off 23 Eat 24 Utter 25 Saluter
DOWN: 1 Twin 2 Impel 3 Knuckle duster 4 Dodos 5 Lackadaisical 6 Marxist 7 Hostelry 13 Froufrou 15 Lock out 17 Hefts 19 Adopt 20 Afar
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

SOLUTION TO No 220 (Last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Carob 4 Illicit 8 Spurn 9 Snippet 10 Rhetoric 11 Nigh 13 Spoil 15 Revel 19 Heal 20 Harangue 23 Radiant 24 Truce 25 Bustler 26 Radon
DOWN: 1 Cavern 2 Route 3 Bonhomie 4 Instil 5 Lair 6 Caprice 7 Tetchy 12 Megastar 14 Ps and Qs 16 Cherub 17 Banter 18 Herein 21 Gourd 22 Mall

The winners of prize concise No 220 are: Mrs F. M. McGill, 96 Spencer Way, Redhill, Surrey, and A. Hall, 49 Ilex Way, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Name...
Address...
....

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

CAROLS: The Royal Choral Society under Meredith Davies leads the singing in the traditional family carol concerts today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and on Mon at 7.30pm, tickets £1.25-£7. On Tues there is a Victorian Christmas celebration, with Prunella Scales as Queen Victoria and Robert Hardy as Prince Albert, at 7.30pm, £1-£7. Julian Lloyd-Webber, Roger Whittaker and the Goldsmiths Choral Union sing carols in aid of the Save the Children Fund, attended by Princess Anne, on Wed at 7pm, tickets £1-£10. And the New National Youth Choir give a Christmas concert on Thurs at 7.30pm, tickets £1.50-£5.50. Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (589 8212).

SOUTH BANK CAROLS: The Massed Choirs of the London Hospitals are joined by the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Corps of Signals in two concerts today in the Royal Festival Hall, at 3pm and 7.30pm, tickets £2-£6.50, while the City of London Choir and Farnby Brass Ensemble lead carols in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm, tickets £2-£4.50. Tomorrow's concerts are by the Goldsmiths Choral Union in the RFH, 3.15pm and 7.30pm, tickets £1.80-£6 and by the English Chamber Orchestra accompanying the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the QEH, 7.15pm, tickets £3-£7. More carols in the RFH on Mon at 7.30pm and the QEH on Tues at 7.45pm. South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191).

MESSIAH: Handel's oratorio, receives several performances this week. Today it is the turn of St Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, London, SW1 at 7.30pm, tickets £3. Tomorrow, Jane Glover conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.30pm, tickets £2-£7; and Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia and the Richard Hickox Singers at the Barbican at 7pm tickets £2-£7. On Wed, Edward de Rivera conducts the Chorus of the Chelsea Harmonic Society at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45pm, tickets £2.50-£6.50.

PETER PAN: The Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of the J. M. Barrie fantasy opens on Thurs at 7pm. With Mark Rylance as Peter, Stephen Moore as Mr Darling and Captain Hook, Frances Tomelty as Mrs Darling and Katy Behean as Wendy. John Caird directs. Barbican (628 8795/638 8891). Previews today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 28, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Tues (except Jan 3), Thurs and Sat (also Jan 2) at 2pm.

SINBAD THE SAILOR: Ken Dodd and his Diddymen feature in this first London revival of the show since 1907. With Michael Robbins, Jacquie Toye. Wimbledon Theatre (540 0362). Opens today at 2.30pm and 7pm. Until Feb 4, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm (matinées only on Dec 24, Jan 8, 22, 29, evenings only Jan 6, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29, 31, Feb 3).

THE YEARS BETWEEN: First radio production of Daphne du Maurier's play, staged in London in 1945, about a husband and wife trying to pick up the threads after a long wartime separation. Radio 4, 8.30-10pm.

Alastair Muir

Stimulating steps: Three moves from "Nine Sinatra Songs" by Shelley Washington and Keith Young of Twyla Tharp (see Dance)

Tomorrow

PELICAN DELTA: The delta of the River Danube is the most important remaining area for wildlife in Europe, twice the size of the Camargue and home for more than 45 species of fish and hundreds of species of birds from Europe, Asia and Africa. Not to mention huge carp and catfish which flourish in the lakes and channels leading out to the Black Sea. Director/cameraman Alan McGregor presents a filmed report on the region, which is threatened by both drainage and agriculture. BBC2, 7.45-8.40pm.

PRANKS: The *Forty Minutes* documentary takes a light-hearted seasonal look at various unlikely services available for hire, including a couple of stripping nuns (who have set up in Business with a government grant); and amorous pair who are engaged to liven up sedate parties and the booming trade in kissograms. BBC2, 9.35-10.15pm.

Monday

PAINTINGS QUIZ: The National Gallery is running two quizzes which demand a more careful look at its paintings. For adults, the quiz comprises a series of clues whose answers follow a seasonal theme. Five £25 vouchers for use in the gallery's shop will reward correct solutions opened on Jan 9. For children, the quiz begins on Dec 27 and has a ghostly theme, including a question about the extra foot in *The Arnolfini Marriage*. There is also a ghost story strip-cartoon competition. Paintboxes are the prizes. The National Gallery, London WC2 (839 3324). Competitions open until Jan 8, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm (gallery closed Dec 23-26 and Jan 1). Free.

LUNCHTIME AT THE PALACE: A week of lunchtime entertainment at the Palace Theatre, organized by its owner, Andrew Lloyd Webber. Today The Actor's Centre Choir sings carols, aided by Bonnie Langford and Sarah Brightman. Tomorrow the Kosh dance; on Wed Richard Stilgoe entertains; there is a juggler and illusionist on Thurs; and Andrew Lloyd Webber and friends hold a Christmas party on Fri. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue (437 6834). Noon-2.30pm, with mulled wine, bar drinks and Christmas food available. Adults £2, children and pensioners £1.

HI–DE–HI: The stage version of the popular television comedy series, set in a 1950s holiday camp opens at the Victoria Palace (828 4735) on Thurs at 8.30pm. With Simon Cadell, Ruth Madoc, Paul Shane, Jeffrey Holland and guest star Ben Warriss. Previews today at 7.30pm, Tues and Wed at 6pm and 8.30pm, Thurs at 6pm. Until Mar 10, Mon at 7.30pm, Tues-Sat at 6pm and 8.30pm.

THE WIZARD OF OZ: Charlie Drake and Fenella Fielding have leading roles (as the Cowardly Lion and the Wicked Witch of the West) in this stage version of the MGM film musical, using the original songs and music. Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent (460 6677). Opens today at 7.30pm. Until Jan 7, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, then until Jan 21, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Wed, Thurs and Sat at 4.15pm (except Jan 21 at 2.30pm).

GOOD FOR THE FIRST MILE: Six months in the life of the policeman's son, aged 22, from Jarrow, Steve Cram, recently voted BBC Television sports personality of 1983. The film follows him through a series of injuries, altitude training in the snows of Colorado, his struggle even to qualify for the world championships and his eventual triumph in the 1500 metres. Channel 4, 9-10pm.

A TALENT FOR MURDER: Lord Olivier makes his first appearance in a BBC Television drama, an adaptation of the comedy thriller by Jerome Chodorov and Norman Panama which ran for two years on Broadway. He plays the English doctor of an American detective writer (Angela Lansbury). As the writer's family gather at her home to celebrate her birthday, murder is committed and each person becomes a suspect. BBC2, 9.25-10.55pm.

Tuesday

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: The London Symphony Orchestra gives three concerts of seasonal music, conducted by Richard Hickox. Vivaldi's "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Bach's "Christmas be Joyful" from the *Christmas Oratorio* and other music are played before the interval, after which there are carols for orchestra, chorus and audience. Barbican Hall, London EC2 (628 8795). Today, tomorrow and Thurs at 7pm. Tickets £3-£6.

ORWELL ON JURA: With 1984 only two weeks away, be prepared for an avalanche of media reassessments of George Orwell and his last novel with its nightmare vision of a future totalitarian society. This drama documentary, written by Alan Plater, follows the three-year preparation of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* on the Hebridean island of Jura and Orwell's struggle to finish the book against failing health. He is played by Ronald Pickup. BBC1, 9.25-10.55pm.

Wednesday

TREASURED POSSESSIONS: Owners of historic houses in England, Scotland and Wales have lent more than 200 works of art for an exhibition mounted in conjunction with the Historic Houses Association. Many pieces have close connections with the houses they come from, such as Chippendale furniture from Burton Constable Hall for which it was commissioned and a portrait of the third Duke of Norfolk attributed to Holbein from Arundel Castle. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080). Until Jan 20, Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. Admission £2 including full catalogue.

GOING, GOING: The history of motoring, cycling and flight is encompassed in a giant sale of 550 lots. Mascots, trophies, commemoratives, equipment, pictures, books, ephemera, penny-farthings, a Napoleonic tricycle and some nautical items are for sale. For motorists who have everything there are some stunning Lalique radiator mascots at around £2,000. Phillips, Blenheim Streest, London W1 (629 6602) at noon.

A NEW DASH: Wayne Sleep and his company of 12 dancers are back in the West End with a show which incorporates many new routines. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (580 9562/323 1576). Opens today at 7pm. For a season, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Sat at 2.30pm.

DICK WHITTINGTON: Roy Hudd, June Whitfield, Hugh Lolyd, Richard Murdoch, Honor Blackman and John Hanson are in a new show written by Roger Redfarn. Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey (940 0088). Opens today at 7.30pm. Until Jan 7, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, then until Feb 2, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matineés Tues, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm.

MADAME BUTTERFLY: Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's celebrated 1974 film of Puccini's tragic opera about the Japanese geisha who is loved and abandoned by an American marine lieutenant. Placido Domingo and Mirella Freni sing the leading roles (in Italian, with English subtitles) and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra is conducted by Herbert von Karajan. Channel 4, 9-11.50pm.

THE ROADS OF EXILE: François Simon stars as the eighteenth century Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau in a two-part television film directed by Claude Goretta (best known for his movie *The Lacemaker* and, like Rousseau, born in Geneva). The film follows Rousseau's flight through Europe, followed by his servant girl mistress, as his latest book is condemned by the authorities in France. part one 10.45-12.25am; part two tomorrow, 11.10pm-1am.

Thursday

COUNTRY LINES: A lovely piece of railway nostalgia as *Breakfast Time* reporter Nigel Farrell travels on four of the most picturesque and remote branch lines on the British Rail network: Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge in Wales; Settle to Carlisle, which is threatened with closure; St Erth to St Ives in Cornwall; and the West Highland line in Scotland, which has the highest and the loneliest station in Britain. BBC1, 2-2.30pm.

ACCOUNTS: The latest in the series of films produced under the auspices of Channel 4 is a sensitive study of a widow and her two sons who pull up their Northumbrian roots and take on a new farm in the harsh Scottish border country near Kelso. It was written by Michael Wilcox, from the stage play which won him the 1981 George Devine award for the most promising young theatre writer, and directed by Michael Darlow. Channel 4, 9.30-11.20pm.

Friday

WINNING CAROL: The BBC Television Carol Competition, now in its eighth year and being run for the first time by *Breakfast Time*, has attracted nearly 2,000 entries from schools, who were asked to compose an original carol and send in a cassette of it being performed. Today the six finalists will perform their compositions in Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire, before a judging panel of Rod Argent, Kiki Dee and Peter Skellern. BBC1, 6.40-7.15am

HELLO DOLLY!: Danny La Rue, Lionel Jeffries, Lorna Dallas open in the first ever production of the popular Jerry Herman musical to star a man. Directed by Peter Coe. Prince of Wales (930 8681). Today at 7.30pm. Until Apr 28, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm

PRIDE OF OUR ALLEY: The busy Alan Plater turns from the tortured last years of George Orwell to the Lancashire mill girl Grace Stansfield who, as Gracie Fields, became one of Britain's most popular entertainers and a folk heroine way beyond her native Rochdale. She is played by Polly Hemingway, who has not only to cope with an age span of 60 years but had the formidable challenge of recreating that unique voice. All ITV regions, 8.15-9.45pm.

DOIN' WHAT COMES NATURALLY: Sheridan Morley looks at the phenomenon of Irving Berlin, now 95, who had his first big success with Alexander's Ragtime Band and went on to write more than 3,000 songs, though he never learned to read music and composed on a piano with an automatic key-changing device. Taking part in the programme are Alan Jay Lerner, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Ethel Merman and Jerome Robbins. Radio 4, 9.30-10pm.

Week following

Dec 24 (Christmas Eve): Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. King's College, Cambridge, at 3pm.

Country Diary

Changes at home on the ranges

The last country diary I wrote was criticized in some quarters for harping too much on motorways and, worse still, for being apparently in their favour. So let me begin this one, even more improbably, at an airfield outside Watford on a cold, grey murky winter morning.

My host is Robin Malim, who learnt to fly in the Royal Air Force and nowadays does most of his business travelling at the controls of a Cessna six-seater. Our destination is what conservationists call the English prairies, the East Anglian cornbelt where in the past few years farmers have ruthlessly stripped away trees and hedges to make room for bigger machines and bigger profits.

Robin, relaxed and affable, is not an easy man to dislike. But for many people, farmers as well as environmentalists, he symbolizes all that is worst about contemporary British agriculture and poses a dire threat to what is left of our traditional rural society.

He is managing director of a firm called Velcourt, which farms some 24,000 acres of land owned by City institutions. It also farms 40,000 acres in Australia and has recently set up a technical consultancy in France to teach the locals how to grow wheat and barley more efficiently.

It began life back in 1966, when he and three fellow farmers decided to pool their resources. Only two of the original four partners remain.

The three farms we are to see today are all owned by the Hill Samuel Unit Trust. We land a few miles from Cambridge and are met by James King, the regional manager and son of Velcourt's chairman. On our way to the first farm we pass Wimpole Hall, once the home of Rudyard Kipling and now owned by the National Trust. Rare breeds of cattle graze in the grounds, and there is a group of beautifully restored tithe barns by the roadside.

Is this, I wonder, the shape of things to come; bits and pieces of the countryside preserved as rural museums, while all around them the new agribusiness managers go about their task of wresting ever higher yields from soils drenched in fertilizers and herbicides? It certainly looks that way as we drive on through huge fields green with fast-burgeoning winter crops, with not a hedgerow to be seen and only an occasional forlorn and solitary tree.

But Velcourt claim the damage was all done before they arrived. Not only do they make a practice of not removing trees and hedgerows, but they planted 30,000 new trees last year alone. James points to a new young woodland: "All proper trees, oak, ash, hazel, field alder, hawthorn and so on, none of your wretched conifers."

The key to conservation, Robin insists, is profitability. "There's no way you can do a Capability Brown unless you can afford to pay for it. The farmer who isn't making money will simply be tempted to try to grow more and more grain wherever he can."

The road to profitability, however, is considerably less straight than the farm tracks of Cambridgeshire. Back in the 1970s Velcourt was among the first to reject the plough as unnecessary: all that was needed, it was then said, was light tillage before direct drilling of the new seed.

It seemed like a good idea at the time, but after a decade Velcourt has gone back to ploughing. It is also concerned about the size and weight of modern farm machinery, and next autumn James is determined to use nothing but tracked vehicles in order to minimize soil compaction. The company has also decided to abandon straw burning as antisocial. Robin expects that chopping and ploughing in the harvest residue will mean that a lot more nitrogen is needed for the next three or four years but that eventually, if the German experience is anything to go by, the soil structure will be improved.

Malton farm, which is nearly 700 acres, is run by two men, with extra casual help at harvest time. In winter the main tasks are machine maintenance and keeping the pigeons off the oilseed rape.

Tim Durrant, the manager, says the birds get used to the "gas guns", in which propane is ignited by batteries at timed intervals to make a bang. He thinks there is more future in radio-controlled model aircraft. "They don't mind humans with guns on the ground. But when there's something up there buzzing around in the air with them, they don't know what's going on."

Now that really is innovation.

John Young

Family Life

Hints for reluctant yuletide hostesses

In the carefree days of my youth, before I learned to drive or had children, I used to look forward to Christmas. On the morning of Christmas Eve I would take a taxi to Liberty's, sweep through the emporium buying silk scarves, cravats and key-rings, then out again to find another cab, pausing only for a large brandy in Verreys. I would ask the second cab driver to stop at the market where I would pick up a bird, a few pounds of sprouts and a sprig of mistletoe, and then I would go home.

It was always an expensive outing, but undertaken with a certain style, and I wish that the girl who sallied forth with only a large cheque-book in her handbag were alive today instead of the woman who is fretting about the fact that she hasn't yet bought a Christmas present, made a mince pie or sent out a single card.

It's the same every year, about mid-November I nudge myself and swear to follow the Guides' motto to be prepared – then studiously ignore all the orange and red alerts that warn of the impending event.

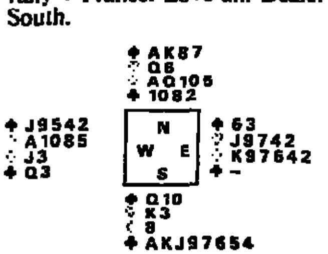
It is partly because I genuinely object to what we all now accept with resignation – the horrendous over-commercialization of what should be a religious or family affair; and partly because, though I have no great affection for panic or deadlines, they are so much a part of my life that without the adrenalin that accompanies them, I feel no sense of urgency, like a spring without a coil or a houseman without a bleep.

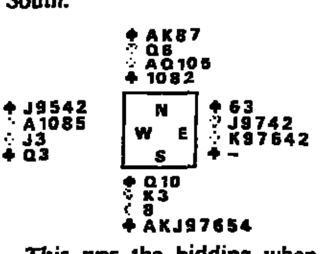
Had I had *my* way, we would all be off to a hotel this Christmas – somewhere with deep pile carpets and interior-sprung mattresses, to an atmosphere that would envelop us with its hospitality and yuletide efficiency and where all the chefs would do the work.

But the family will have none of it. For them Christmas has to be all about making puddings and pies, dressing the tree, wrapping presents in secrecy and opening them noisily at dawn. They like their local carol singers, the bustle of friends crossing our threshold on Christmas morning bringing bottles and good cheer – and best of all the sight of me staggering to the table bearing the golden goose. Christmas, they say year after year, would not be the same if we weren't at home.

I do have friends who manage to get away from it all – but they are, to man and woman, either rich or childless or both. Not for them the fingers scalded trying to peel the chestnuts to go with the sprouts (which only half the family likes anyway): or the in-laws who don't speak to each other but would be offended not to be asked: or the friend who hasn't a home to go to and decides to visit yours for a quick drink on Christmas morning and has to be put to bed (one of yours), very drunk, twelve hours later.

While sybaritic friends sit sipping Lowenbrau above some snowy piste or sun themselves on a Caribbean beach, I – and thousands like me – will be doing my damnedest to see that





those I love – and some that I don't – are having the Christmas of their lives: and wondering, as I do each year, whether it is worth all the effort and expense.

And provided nobody dies, slips a disc, sets light to the dog, has a massive row or crashes the car (all of which I have known to happen), I will of course conclude that it is.

Now I must make my list – and just in case any of you is as absent-minded or short-sighted as me I will commit it to paper:

Make list of everything I need from toilet rolls to tin foil. Get family to check and add to it.

Plan to visit supermarket early one morning with two helpers, one to find boxes and carry same to car and one to cross off items as we go.

Save all carboard boxes because dustbins are never big enough.

Buy twice as much wrapping paper, Sellotape, butter and cream as I think I'll need.

Buy half as many nuts and dates (I still have last year's).

Prepare and freeze mince pies, stuffings, sausage rolls and brandy butter.

Make note in diary to remove same from freezer the day *before* Christmas Eve.

Get butcher to weigh turkey/goose so I'll know how long to cook it for and we won't sit down for dinner at 10pm on Christmas night.

Buy half a dozen presents for unexpected guests and a dozen extra cards plus stamps for friends we thought had forgotten us.

Make another list of all distant friends and family to telephone with seasonal greetings.

Buy large bottle of Alka Seltzer, bottles of Vitamins B, C, E and Paracetamol – for those who didn't know when to stop.

Buy three times as many cigarettes as I otherwise would (all those who are trying to give up will make exceptions because it's Christmas and smoke mine).

Find out what time midnight mass really starts this year and allow twice as much time as I think I need to get there, park and find a seat that isn't behind a pillar.

Ensure there's plenty of soda – for drinks and to squirt on spillages.

Decide *now* how much I'm going to spend on presents and exceed it only by half as much again.

Buy myself a little something to slip into on Christmas morning as what is bought *for* me will either not fit or be too good to risk ruining in my attempts to achieve a balance between being mother/wife/cook and hostess.

Put this list in my diary for Monday morning so I won't forget I've made it.

Happy Christmas.

Judy Froshaug

Outings

LOOKING INTO SPACE
The Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (821 1313). Today until Jan 8 except Dec 23-25 and Jan 1, Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2pm-5.50pm. Free
Particularly for 8-14 year olds, the Tate's Christmas Trail looks at ways in which artists have achieved space and depth in their pictures. Also until Jan 5, the annual Christmas Tree Guessing Game – prizes for children who guess the number of cards.

MACHINES AND MOTION
The Royal Institution, 21 Albermarle Street, W1 (493 6470). Today, Mon, Wed, Fri and Dec 29, 31 all at 3pm. Tickets for all six lectures adults £12, children £4; Single tickets, adults £2.50, children £1
An excellent programme of lectures for adults and children aged 10-17. Apply to the lectures' secretary for tickets.

DISCOVERY ROOM
Science Museum, South Kensington, SW7 (589 3456). Mon until Jan 7, Mon-Sat 11.30am-4.15pm. Free
A selection of "hands on" experiments and demonstrations for children – and adults.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL
The London Toy & Model Museum, 23 Craven Hill, W2 (262 7905). Tues-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Until Mar 31, 1984. Adults £1.50, children 50p.
An exhibition celebrating the toy animal with nearly 1,000 on display. The Christmas Holiday Competition, open to all children under 16, invites them to make a model vehicle or passenger. Closing date Dec 31, entry forms from the museum.

LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 12-18 YEAR OLDS
The Royal College Of Surgeons, 35-43 Lincolns Inn Fields, WC2 (405 3474). Thurs and Dec 29, 30, Jan 6, all at 3pm. Free.
For older children interested in medicine and surgery, a programme of lectures on the following themes: The romance of surgery: Operations of the heart: You too can save a life now; The sixth former and medicine; Stories from skeletons. Each lecture will be preceded by a tour of the Hunterian Museum. Apply in writing to Miss L. Napper, Surgical Training Office, at the above address.

Bridge

Fatal decision that dealt defeat

The all-American semi-final of the 1983 World Championships was a one-sided contest which the Aces won by 185 IMPs to 82 IMPs.

The clash between Italy and France in the other semi-final was an entirely different matter, with the issue in doubt until the final board. After 64 boards, Italy led by 14 IMPs, but France regained 50 points on the next 16 boards to lead by 37 at the halfway stage. With only 48 boards to play, the French had stretched their advantage to 62 IMPs, and with Italy's star pair, Belladonna and Garozzo, lacking the fire of former years, it seemed that France would surely prevail.

But Italy, relying mostly on their tried quartet of Franco, De Falco, Lauria and Mosca, clawed back 59 points in the next 32 boards to leave the score France 311, Italy 308, with one short session to play. They were still five points behind when they came to board 152.

Italy v France. Love all. Dealer South.

North: ♠ A K 8 7 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A Q 10 5 ♣ 10 8 2
West: ♠ J 9 5 4 2 ♥ A 10 8 5 ♦ J 3 ♣ Q 3
East: ♠ 6 3 ♥ J 9 7 4 2 ♦ K 9 7 6 4 2 ♣ –
South: ♠ Q 10 ♥ K 3 ♦ 8 ♣ A K J 9 7 6 5 4

This was the bidding when France held the North-South cards.

W Mosca	N Soulet	E Lauria	S Lebel
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	2♠	3♦	4♣
No	4♦	No	4♥
No	5♣	No	No
No	–	–	–

It seems to me that South (Lebel) must take the blame for missing the excellent slam. After all, North (Soulet) had cue bid both his opponents' suits, so Lebel could count 11 tricks with any spade finesse sure to succeed.

This was the Italian bidding:

W Cronier	N De Falco	E Corn	S Franco
–	–	–	2♣(1)
No	2♦(2)	Double	4♣
4♠	Double	5♣	No
5♥	6♣	No	No
Double	No	No	No

1 A limited hand, usually based on clubs.

2 A relay to extract further information.

Cronier's final double promised one defensive trick. Now Corn had to decide whether his ♦K would produce the other. It didn't. Most critics blamed Corn. But no one likes to make a phantom sacrifice, and six hearts doubled would have cost at least 700. So Italy scored 1090 and gained 12 IMPs, to lead by 7 IMPs with eight boards to play.

The hand which undoubtedly decided the match was board 156.

North-South game. Dealer West.

North: ♠ 10 5 ♥ A K 9 4 ♦ K 5 ♣ 10 7 6 5 3
West: ♠ K J 6 3 2 ♥ Q 10 7 6 3 ♦ Q ♣ J 2
East: ♠ Q 9 8 7 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ A J 10 7 2 ♣ 9
South: ♠ A 4 ♥ 2 ♦ 9 8 6 4 3 ♣ A K Q 8 4

To the accompaniment of Italian groans in the audience, Mosca and Lauria languished in four clubs. It seemed as if Italy's fate was sealed. But this was the bidding in the other room:

W Franco	N Cronier	E De Falco	S Corn
2NT (1)	No	4♠(2)	4NT (3)
No	6♣(4)	No	No
No	–	–	–

1 A moderate hand with both majors.
2 A well-judged barrage.
3 Perhaps a little under strength, but Corn could not allow non-vulnerable opponents to "pick his pocket".
4 With no room to explore, Cronier had to guess.

It turned out to be a fatal decision when De Falco led the ♦A and gave his partner a ruff.

So the Italians emerged battle-scarred but victorious to face their old rivals, the American Aces, in the 176-board final. Could they find the inspiration to avenge their defeat in Rio de Janeiro in 1979, or would the American Aces, as most observers expected, prove too solid?

Jeremy Flint

Chess

Refreshing vigour of a winner

My absorption with the Acorn Computers World Championship semifinals, which have been rightly attracting great public attention at the Great Eastern Hotel in Liverpool Street, London, has prevented me from covering a number of highly attractive and important Swiss system events that have been, and are being, played in November and December.

Perhaps the most interesting of these was the Accountancy Age Masters tournament, the latest in the series of Lewisham tournaments held in London from November 24 to December 2. It contained 53 players who played nine rounds Swiss system.

There was a distinguished entry that included five grandmasters: Westerinen from Finland, Forintos and Flesch from Hungary, and Stean and Miles from England. An out-of-form Tony Miles withdrew after the first five rounds with a score of 2½.

The tournament contained eight international masters, Hebden and Plaskett (England), Dizdar and Ilic (Yugoslavia), Pytel (Poland), Hartoch (Netherlands), Rogers (Australia), and Iskov Denmark).

It was Jim Plaskett who dominated the event, as indeed he has done so many others this year. He won six games, including among his victims Hartoch, Conquest and (a new name) Rigo from Hungary. With a score of 7½ out of 9, he came first, a point ahead of the field. Equal second were Crouch, Hebden, Rigo and Westerinen with 6½.

A beautiful game, played and won by Plaskett in the penultimate round which proved decisive as regards the destination of the first prize went as follows:

White: C. Crouch, Black: H. J. Plaskett. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence

1 P-Q4 N-KB3 2 P-QB4 P-K3
3 N-KB3 P-QN3 4 P-QR3 B-R3

This idea, by now a little old-fashioned though once regarded as the latest mode, is a counter-attack justified by White's waste of a tempo with P–QR3.

5 Q-N3

A new, but not particularly good, idea.

5 .... P-B4

Plaskett thinks 5 ... P–Q4 "a more correct response", but I like this vigorous move.

6 P-Q5 P-KN3 7 B-N5 P-KR3
8 B-R4

Too slow; better was 8 BxN QxB, 9 N–B3.

8 .... B-KN2

A bad mistake would be 8 ... PxP, 9 Q–K3ch when White wins a piece.

9 PxP?

A weak move; better was still 9 N–B3.

9 .... QPxP 10 N-B3 0-0
11 R-Q1 Q-K2 12 P-K4

Plaskett rightly condemns the "hole" this creates on Q4 and recommends instead 12 P–K3.

12 .... P-KN4 13 B-N3 R-Q1
14 RxRch QxR 15 P-KR4 P-N5
16 N-KR2 N-B3 17 B-K2 Q-Q5
18 Q-R4 NxP? 19 QxN

Or 19 QxB Q–Q7ch, 20 K–B1 NxN and Black wins.

19 .... Q-Q7ch 20 K-B1 Q-B8ch
21 N-Q1

Or 21 B–Q1 NxBch, 22 PxN BxPch, 23 K–K1 BxNch, 24 PxB Q–K6ch, etc.

21 .... R-Q1 22 K-N1

Or 22 Q–R4 BxBP, when White's position collapses like a house of cards.

22 .... NxB 23 PxN B-Q5ch
24 K-B1 BxBP 25 K-K1 BxB
26 KxB Q-B7ch 27 K-K1 B-B7ch
28 NxB Q-B8ch 29 K-K2 R-Q7ch
30 K-K3 R-Q6 dis ch 31 K-K4 Q-B5ch
32 K-K5 Q-Q5 mate

A game conducted with refreshing vigour by the winner.

Harry Golombek

هكذا من الأصل



FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A Crocker full of trouble for Midland

To judge from Crocker Bank's losses the end of Midland Bank's suffering is not yet in sight. Midland has had more than its share of misfortune: for example, Lord Armstrong's untimely death in 1980 was followed by an unsatisfactory and uncertain interregnum.

But two important strategic errors of the bank's own making have caused more serious problems than malign fate. Midland dillied and dallied far too long before making a move into the United States, preferring correspondent banking and the consortium approach to the world's most important banking market.

It also opted for a stifling management structure: in Mr Stuart Graham and Mr *Malcolm Wilcox the bank had* two equally powerful chief general managers, whose energies seemed to be taken up more in opposing each other than in restoring the bank to something like its previous eminence.

Divide and rule may occasionally be a useful principle in structuring senior management but division without rule has nothing to commend it. The Midland board finally recognized its error and appointed Mr Geoffrey Taylor in 1982 as sole chief executive in succession to Mr Graham and Mr Wilcox.

The legacy they left him was not enviable and it will take a long time to sort out. Meanwhile, there is Crocker.

Thursday night's news from California that Crocker has moved into the red this year and will halve its dividend confirms some of the worst fears about the quality and performance of Midland's 57 per cent-owned subsidiary. Crocker is making a special \$107m charge to meet non-repayment of property and farming loans, which will mean a fourth-quarter loss of \$57m and a loss for 1983 of about \$10m.

Midland's profits as a result of Crocker's "prudence" will be cut by £75m. *Midland paid an average of \$67.4 (\$825m* in total) for its Crocker shares; yesterday the price was \$23.5.

Midland's investment, which because it is so large and because it is in the United States, is crucial to the bank and its shareholders. As Midland, which completed the deal in January, was about the last in the line of foreign buyers of US banks, it was hardly in a position to buy the best.

Generally US banks are available only if they are poorly managed and/or they have exceptional difficulties with which they cannot cope. Crocker had built up heavy



Geoffrey Taylor: Legacy to sort out.

and vulnerable loan positions in Latin America. It had a deep commitment in real estate lending in California and, again in common with other US banks, it was running into a period of intensifying pressure on margins.

Flat corporate loan demand and, more significantly, deregulation of American banking, which has brought fierce and costly competition for deposits in the past 12 months, are making the going tough.

Midland's acquisition of Crocker is, therefore, a high cost and high risk venture. Banking in the United States for foreigners is not the easiest game in the the world at the best of times. Moreover, Midland agreed to handicap itself at the start.

Th Federal Reserve Board concurred with Crocker's insistence that it should be allowed to run its own affairs, without *direction or interference from London.*

Midland had virtually no warning of the huge provisions on property loans and appears to have been kept in the dark about the seriousness of the situation.

This is clearly now going to change. Two of Midland's main board directors are off to California to agree with Crocker's senior management "specific ways of improving performance and to determine future working relationships between Midland and Crocker".

The affair could scarcely have come at a worse time for Midland which has just begun to get profits moving ahead again and appeared to be coming to grips with some of its long-standing problems. It now has to start all over again rebuilding its credibility. Yesterday Midland's shares fell 53p to 384p.

Secrets of a Telecom engineer

If you want some plumbing done, say, British Telecom engineers can usually oblige. They cannot be accused of moonlighting because, in my experience, the work is done in daylight when ordinary people are trying to get through to British Telecom to find out why they cannot have a telephone installed without waiting weeks. But I am not in the market at the moment, for water pipes or bathroom fixtures. However, I would like a Prestel unit.

As you may know, you cannot have a prestel unit until BT's engineers have put in the appropriate jack. They insist on a jack monopoly, although it is simple to install. Four weeks ago my Prestel equipment supplier informed BT. Three and a half weeks later nothing had *hapened;* or it seemed nothing had hapened. In fact BT engineers arrived at the door on Wednesday, but as no one was in, they went away without even disturb*ing the letter box with a visiting card.* They had, I was told by the supplier, "made an appointment for that day and had now made another appoitment in January." But, I protested, they had made *no such appointment with me.* "No, *not* with you: they make an internal appointment with themselves."

It seems to me that, with a bit of luck, BT engineers can go on for ever making internal appointments which, because the customer is not let into the secret, will be kept by them alone. Of course, no jack will be installed, no Prestel unit delivered

I hope that is not what Sir George has in mind even if the privatization of BT merely substitutes a private for a public sector monopoly. Perhaps a smidgen of the £8m earmarked for marketing BT shares next year could be put into making the internal appointment system at least partially external? Who knows, it might be Prestel's salvation.

Rothschild buys maximum stake in Smith Brothers

By Wayne Lintott

Rothschild Group, the holding company of merchant bank N M Rothschild, has reached agreement to buy a 29.9 per cent stake in Smith Brothers the London stockjobbers. The stake is *the maximum permitted* by the Stock Exchange.

Smith Brothers is the fourth largest firm of jobbers and specializes in gold shares with office in New York, Los Angeles and London. Rothschild is one of the five banks which fix the price of gold twice daily and is London's biggest bullion dealer.

The deal follows an agreement *reached last month* between S G Warburg, the merchant bank, and Akroyd and Smithers, the stockjobbers, and put even more pressure on Wadd Durlacher, London's premier jobbing firm. It has had talks but as yet to decide a partner. Leading merchant banks have been named as potential partners but National Westminster is still considered the front runner.

The flurry of activity by *leading institutions and* stockbrokers and jobbers, who act as wholesalers of shares to the brokers, arise from the restructuring taking place in the stock market.

Greater competition is expected, paticularly if the single capacity role separating share wholesalers and retailers is abolished in favour of dual *capacity.*

Rothschild is paying a total £11.5m, subject to the approval of the regulatory authorities, the Stock Exchange Council, Bank of England and Smith Shareholders. It is paying 95p a share in cash for 900,000 new shares and £5.65m for nominal 8.75 per cent unsecured loan stock 2000 at par for cash.

On that basis the bankers have paid five times earnings, plus a modest premium. Smith Brothers shares were trading at 88p before the announcement having improved from 38p during the year.

The bankers cannot take up more of the Smith Brothers equity but intend forming an international dealing subsidiary next April when Stock Exchange rules permit.

Rothschild has interests in Australia, Hongkong, Singapore, America and Europe, mainly in Zurich. It is attracted by Smith Brothers's wholesale dealing expertise which the bank will exploit for international business.

Smith Brothers's New York business will be incorporated into a subsidiary 51 per cent owned by Smiths, 49 per cent by Rothschild. The offshoot will be capitalized at £10m, half of which will be paid for by Smith.

Exploratory talks began a few weeks ago; formal discussions completed the deal this week. Both sides admit having spoken to other groups but the synergy *between us was so obvious that* the agreement was almost immediate", said Mr Tony Lewis, Smith chairman.

Recently Mr Jacob Roth*schild's RIT & Northern finan*cial services group revealed a 7.72 per cent stake in Smith.

The other major Smith shareholder is Finance for Industry which holds loan stock when converted, equivalent to 18 per cent.

£6m part bid for Maynards

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Lewis Cartier, the entrepreneur who built Cartier Superfoods out of a butcher's delivery round, is back in Britain and has made a surprise partial bid for Maynards, the confectionery and toy chain.

Mr Cartier launched his 250p-a-share bid late yesterday after talks with the Maynards directors broke down. He wants to take control of 51.8 per cent with the balance to remain in the hands of existing shareholders, mainly the big institutions.

The aim, if he is successful, is to expand Maynards 72-shop toy retailing arm into a 300-strong chain with the confectionery manufacturing and retailing divisions sold off to their managements.

Mr Cartier qualified as a butcher in 1964 when he was 18 and *quickly appreciated* the potential of providing low price foods for people with freezers. Cartiers went public and Mr Cartier later sold out to Tesco which took over the stores in 1979 for £20m, He moved to Florida and the property market. He returned to Britain in August and approached the Maynards board on Thursday.

Mr Cartier said: "We never discussed price. I think they'll talk, but it all came as a bit of a shock."

The toy shops trade under the *Zodiac name and are mainly* distributed close to the motorway system but with no outlets in the South. He believes there is scope for 300 branches and said that 200 within five years was a reasonable target.

The offer is 250p cash for each Maynards share and £1 for each preference share which values the group at £12.2m and *the stake he wants at £6.3m.*

Three-quarters of the shares are in institutional hands

London Brick to lobby OFT

By Jeremy Warner

London Brick is expected to lobby the Office of Fair Trading next week in an attempt to have an unwanted £170m cash bid from Hanson Trust referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It believes there is "strong possibility" of its case being accepted by the OFT which has confirmed that it will be taking a close look at the takeover bid.

London Brick is Britain's sole *producer of cheap* fletton housebuilding bricks while Hanson has about 20 per cent of the non-fletton facing brick market through its Butterley Building Materials offshoot.

London Brick last summer won clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to make a takeover bid for Ibstock Johnsen, another leading producer of non-fletton bricks, but decided against proceeding. The finding of the commission have encouraged Hanson into believing that an alternatve merger between Butterley and London Brick will also be allowed to go ahead without government interference.

But this view was being challenged yesterday. One reason why London Brick was given clearance by the commission was because it was found to have exercised its flettons monopoly responsibly, *Mr Jeremy Rowe its chairman,* pointed out. The commission also went to considerable lengths to make clear that other mergers in the brick industry might not be viewed as favourably.

Mr Rowe said that since publication of the commission's report in August, the company has expanded its presence in non-fletton bricks fivefold though a combination of acquisition and green field development

Hanson Trust's bid formally rejected by London Brick yesterday as "*wholly inad*equate, completely unacceptable and not in the interests of shareholders, employees or customers."

London Brick's share price jumped 31½p to 136p in the market – way ahead of Hanson's bid – and a number of alternative mergers for the group were being mentioned by stockbroking analysters. These included a defensive merger with Steetley, itself the subject of an unwanted £115m takeover bid from Hepworth Ceramic which is before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

● Tarmac has emerged as the mystery suitor for Francis Parker, the building materials and property development group, with an agreed bid worth £16m. It is offering 50p in cash for each share.

Public sector borrowing up sharply

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Public sector borrowing rose *sharply in November,* bringing the total to £8.8 billion in the first eight months of the financial year. This is £3 billion higher than at the corresponding time last year but Whitehall officials pointed out yesterday that there were many special factors and the Treasury is still confident that the Chancellor's latest forecasts will be met.

In the autumn Mr Nigel Lawson raised the Government's forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) – the difference between what the public sector spends and what it produce in taxes – *from £8.2 billion to £10 billion.*

The November borrowing requirement of £1.671 billion compared with £67m the previous month and £880m in November last year.

The figures show departmental spending rising at 9.8 per cent, still well above the 5.4 per cent forecast in the last budget. Several factors, including EEC payments, are said to have swollen the figures, and officials *put the underlying rise at about* 8 per cent.

The latest figures, however, may lead some to take more seriously the Chancellor's warning last month that taxes could have to rise next year.

Pound loses 85 points

Sterling ended the day at a new closing low against the dollar of \$1.4140, a drop of 85 points, as the US currency surged ahead again on the foreign exchange markets.

Markets remain convinced that the underlying trend for the dollar is upwards. Demand was strong yesterday ahead of last night's US money supply figures. The dollar closed just over 1 pfennig higher against the Deutsch mark at DM 2.7777.

Sterling's trade-weighted value slipped 0.1 to 81.9 and the pound was slightly weaker against European and other leading currencies.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 759.3 up 6.5
FT Gilts: 82.34 up 0.08
FT All Share: 462.48 down 1.17
Bargains: 22,511
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 94.94 down 0.23
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: *(latest) 1236.59 down 0.20*
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,530.61 up 68.18
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 860.77 down 9.11
Amsterdam: 155.4 up 0.6
Sydney: AO Index 754.7 down 0.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1007.9 down 2.0
Brussels: General Index 133.52 unchanged
Paris: CAC Index 148.6 down 0.9
Zurich: SKA General 306.90 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
\$1.4140 down 85pts
Index 81.9 down 0.1
DM 3.9300 down 0.0100
FrF 11.9850 down 0.0200
Yen 333.50 down 1.00
Dollar
Index 131.1 up 0.4
DM 2.7777 up 0.0107
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4165
Dollar DM 2.7765
INTERNATIONAL
ECU N/A
SDR £0.731990

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$381.00 pm \$377.25
close \$373.50-374.25 (£264.00-264.50)
New York (close): \$374.25
Krugerrand* (per coin): \$385.00-386.50 (£272.00-273.00)
Sovereigns* (new): \$90.00-91.00 (£63.50-64.50)
*Excludes VAT

£58m loss at British Shipbuilders

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

British Shipbuilders, which is threatened with a national shipyard strike next month, *confirmed* yesterday that its losses for the *half* year to September 30 totalled £58m.

The corporation, which has become the Government's most persistent nationalized industry headache, is set to record losses for the year of well over 100m. Last summer, it announced 1982-83 losses of £128m and said that a further 9,000 jobs *would be cut in the next two* years.

The group continues to be hit by the world slump in merchant ship ordering and by the decline in offshore work.

Several yards already face closure and Mr Graham Day, the chairman, has warned workers who plan to strike over the corporation's £7-a-week productivity deal that more job cuts might be necessary. The effect of a strike on customer confidence would be devastating, he says.

The corporation is making no new offer to avert the strike and is hoping that a ballot by the boilermakers' union will show workers to be against a stoppage.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tootal sells £20m stake in Australia

The Tootal Group has agreed to sell its stake in the Australian Bradmill Industries for £20.1m to Entrand, the Australian public company that was party to the failed bid for Courtauld's Australian subsidiary, Courtaulds Hilton.

A £23.6m deal to sell Tootal's 49.9 per cent holding in Bradmill to another Australian company, Bruck (Australia), was blocked by the Australian National Companies and Securities Commission in July 1982.

Tootal shares closed up 2p at 39½p yesterday.

● **Mr John Harvey-Jones,** chairman of ICI has joined the board of Grand Metropolitan as a *non-executive director.*

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8⅞
3 month interbank 9$\frac{9}{16}$-9½

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10⅜-10½
3 month DM 6½-6⅜
3 month Fr F14-13¾

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9⅝
Treasury long bond 100-100$\frac{13}{32}$

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

City and industry urged to share export tip-offs

By John Lawless

A secretariat based on the Confederation of British Industry to swap export sales leads between manufacturers, City *bankers and consultants* was proposed yesterday in a report sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The report, called *Success in Invisibles,* says: "This move will, at last, bring the three most important sectors of our economy – industry, the City and the professions – right into the forefront of attempts to link *modern information technology* to dynamic marketing.

"The rewards could be huge and would put Britain years ahead of its competitors."

The report, by Mr Andrew Tessler of ITI Research, also asks the City institutions not to be so secretive with the early *warnings of foreign business* they get.

Success in Invisibles is available from ITI Research, Silverwood, Park Copse, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4BL, *prices* £20.

● The Committee on Invisible Exports yesterday changed its name to the British Invisible Exports Council (BIE). It also announced that Lord Limerick, former chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, is to head a new overseas promotion committee.

Charterhouse Petroleum in £47m deal

Expansion for oil high-flier

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Charterhouse Petroleum confirmed *its reputation as one* of the fastest growing and most ambitious of the smaller British oil companies yesterday with a £47m acquisition, which it *coupled with a £38.7m rights* issue.

The acquisition involves Charterhouse buying oil and gas interests in the United Kingdom, Holland, Ireland *and* Egypt from Fluor, the United States petrochemical company. Of the *\$66m* total purchase price, \$45.7m is going on North *Sea and onshore assets in* this country.

They include a 12.7 per cent interest in the Buchan field in the North Sea and a 12.6 per *cent* interest in the Humbly Grove field near Basingstoke in Hampshire, which is scheduled *to begin production in 1985.* The deal involves two other onshore oil discoveries, eight North Sea licences and a spread of acreage in southern England.

The other sizable element of the deal is \$20.1m which Charterhouse is spending on a small stake in a rpven gas field and a potentially commercial *oil discovery* in The Netherlands' offshore waters.

Yesterday's announcement follows hard on the heels of the company's decision to spend *£37.5m on* buying a 1.25 per cent stake in BP's Forties field in the recent auction. The two deals will give a significant boost to Charterhouse's assets, reserves and a cash flow, but will also – as with several other recent North Sea deals – help to rationalize the company's tax position.

Charterhouse is forecasting that pretax profits this year will not be less than £9.5m (against *£9.8m last year). The post-tax* figure could be substantially higher, however, thanks to the rationalization of its tax position as a result of its two recent big deals, Mr Anthony Craven-Walker, the managing director, said yesterday.

● Mr Roy Danzic, finance director of Britoil, the oil company that was privatized last November, is leaving the corporation to devote more time to his family business. He will be succeeded by Mr Bob Speirs.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Wedgwood beats overseas blues

Wedgwood, the renowned tableware maker, should produce profits this year close to the record £8.7m made in 1979 if recovery continues at the same rate as seen in the first half. The interim increase in profits from £1.3m to £2.9m was achieved despite growing losses at the Glendale, California, and Croydon, Melbourne, factories.

The Franciscan tile business at Glendale was bought three years ago but quickly fell into losses in the face of cheap imports in the US from Brazil, Italy and Korea. The tile business has now been closed though tableware is still being produced, albeit at a loss.

Sir Arthur Bryan, Wedgwood's chairman, said he hoped to redevelop the 45-acre site, near Hollywood, over the next year but was waiting for a change-of-use agreement with Los Angeles authorities.

Substantial losses have been stemmed by changes in the product line. Total losses from Glendale and Croydon were £700,000.

The big improvement in half-time profits was helped by the dollar exchange rate which improved US demand, both from direct exports and from Americans buying in London. The US takes about 40 per cent of total export sales which account for 70 per cent of turnover at £63m.

The shares rose 5p to 122p.

Cluff Oil

Investors in Cluff Oil have long become accustomed to the fact that the company's figures are an unreliable guide to its health. Yesterday, when Mr Algy Cluff produced his latest interim statement, was no different.

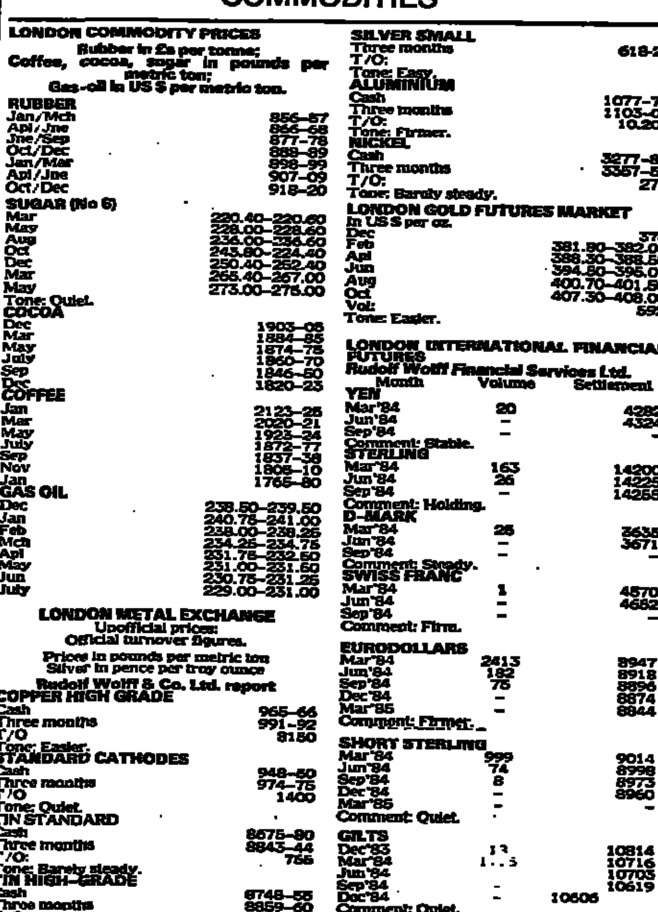
The figures show that Cluff Oil returned to its more traditional position of loss in the first six months of the year, with pretax loss of £691,000 and an after-tax figure of £706,000. The comparative figures in the previous year were profits of £2.27m and £2.054m respectively.

The figures disguise the fact that the company has – not for the first time in its 11 years – been changing its strategy. Having pulled out of Guatemala and cut back its exposure in the United States (where it will be drilling no more wells until it can be sure that well costs are financed out of north American cash flow), Cluff has shifted its money – and hopes – to the Far East.

The recently-signed Chinese offshore licences are clearly critical to Cluff's prospects.

The shares stand at 90p, having staged a recovery all this year after their spectacular collapse in 1981-82, but they are still ones for the professionals rather than amateurs.

COMMODITIES



LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £s per tonne;
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton;
Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Jan/Mch	856–57
Apl/Jne	866–68
Jne/Sep	877–78
Oct/Dec	888–89
Jan/Mar	898–99
Apl/Jne	907–09
Oct/Dec	918–20
SUGAR (No 6)	
Mar	220.40–220.60
May	228.00–228.60
Aug	234.00–336.60
Oct	243.80–224.40
Dec	250.40–252.40
Mar	265.40–267.00
May	273.00–276.00
Tone: Quiet.	
COCOA	
Dec	1903–06
Mar	1884–85
May	1874–75
July	1860–70
Sep	1846–50
Dec	1820–23
COFFEE	
Jan	2123–26
Mar	2020–21
May	1923–24
July	1872–77
Sep	1837–38
Nov	1808–10
Jan	1765–80
GAS OIL	
Dec	238.50–239.50
Jan	240.75–241.00
Feb	238.00–238.25
Mch	234.25–234.75
Apl	231.75–232.50
May	231.00–231.50
Jun	230.75–231.25
July	229.00–231.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices:
Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in pence per troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	965–66
Three months	991–92
T/O	8150
Tone: Easier.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	948–50
Three months	974–75
T/O	1400
Tone: Quiet.	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8675–90
Three months	8843–44
T/O:	755
Tone: Barely steady.	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8748–55
Three months	8859–60
T/O:	75.
Tone: Quiet.	
LEAD	
Cash	272.25–72.75
Three months	282–282.25
ZINC	
Cash	597–98
Three months	611–612
T/O:	2650
Tone: Firmer.	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	602.5–03.0
Three months	617–17.5
T/O:	42
Tone: Easy.	
SILVER SMALL	
Three months	618-20
T/O:	7
Tone: Easy.	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1077–78
Three months	1103–04
T/O:	10,200
Tone: Firmer.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3277–80
Three months	3357–58
T/O:	276
Tone: Barely steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Dec	378
Feb	381.80–382.00
Apl	388.30–388.50
Jun	394.80–395.00
Aug	400.70–401.50
Oct	407.30–408.00
Vol:	592
Tone: Easier.	

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES
Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	20	4282
Jun'84	–	4324
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: Stable.		
STERLING		
Mar'84	163	14200
Jun'84	26	14225
Sep'84	–	14255
Comment: Holding.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	26	3635
Jun'84	–	3671
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: Steady.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	1	4570
Jun'84	–	4682
Sep'84	–	–
Comment: Firm.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	2413	8947
Jun'84	182	8918
Sep'84	75	8896
Dec'84	–	8874
Mar'85	–	8844
Comment: Firmer.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	999	9014
Jun'84	74	8998
Sep'84	8	8973
Dec'84	–	8960
Mar'85	–	–
Comment: Quiet.		
GILTS		
Dec'83	13	10814
Mar'84	[illegible]	10716
Jun'84		10703
Sep'84	–	10619
Dec'84	–	10606
Comment: Quiet.		

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 16:
GB: Cattle, 98.96p per kg lw (+0.51).
GB: Sheep, 154.37p per kg est d c w (-1.63).
GB: Pigs, 79.18p per kg lw (+1.72).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 39.5 per cent, ave. price, 98.61p (+0.24).
Sheep nos. down 26.1 per cent, ave. price, 154.68p (-1.60).
Pig nos. up 89.5 per cent, ave. price, 79.18p (+1.72).

FAMILY MONEY

Consumers' report

The surprising omissions in bank complaints inquiry

This week the spotlight moved to banking services when the National Consumer Council, commissioned by the Government to investigate the high street banks' consumer operations, published its findings.

The 246-page report effectively gives the banks a clean bill of health – eight out of 10 for money-transmission services – but could try harder with opening hours and ancillary facilities.

Recommendations include and ombudsman to deal with customers' complaints, clearer explanation of how bank charges are calculated and a standard formula for quoting interest rates on investment accounts as well as when customers are borrowing.

But there are some omissions. Anyone who has to deal with complaints (and since at the moment there is no-one to whom customers can turn to, this usually means the press) would know that the two most common charges concern access to credit and bank charges (as well as the method of calculation).

Nowhere in the report does the NCC deal with the important question of whether the banks are unbiased when deciding who gets a loan.

On bank charges, it rightly suggests there should be a breakdown of how charges have been calculated according to the bank's tariff. But at no time does the NCC investigate whether the tariff is reasonable in the first place – the customers' biggest single grouse.

It is no accident that banks which specialize in personal account banking almost to the exclusion of commercial customers – Yorkshire Bank and Co-op Bank – offer genuinely free banking. And the conclusion must be that personal-account customers are providing large subsidies to big business which makes much greater use of all the banks' services.

Commerical customers generally deal with more than one bank, so they are able to extract good terms on threat of moving their account.

The personal customer generally uses only the money-transmission and loan services and to a much lesser extent.

It is true that lower interest rates means narrower profit margins but why is the answer always a rise in charges and not a cut in overheads?

The NCC believes all will be resolved when building societies are able to provide full banking services.

It suggests that the banks should be given three years to devise some way of giving the societies access to the banks' cheque clearing system on equitable terms with other banks.

If they continue to discriminate against the societies then "the Government should consider whether the present joint ownership of the clearing systems by members of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers is still appropriate".

The NCC would also like to see a change in the law enabling building societies to lend unsecured. These two measures would give the societies the opportunity to compete directly with the banks for personal-account business. They would be free to offer current-account facilities with cheque book and overdraft.

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SP1 1QZ.
10,12,83.

Dear Sir,
I read your report on the childrens bank accounts on the 10th December. I belong to a bank but who wants lots of silly pigs with nappies on, I certainly don't. I like reading The Times (when I can get it from Daddy) but please don't call me a lolly pop saver.

yours faithfully,
Victoria Emerson
(age 10)

It's the computer that counts

From R. H. Parker

Sir, We took the advice of Mr Peter B Brown (Family Money letters) and checked our Midland Bank statements for interest charges. Mr Brown is fortunate to be charged a mere £24.80 for a one-day overdraft of £7,079.03. This works out at an annual interest rate of only 128 per cent.

For three of the past five quarters the interest charges on our account have been equivalent to annual rates of 253,273 and 300 per cent. For the other two quarters the rate has been infinite, as interest has been charged (admittedly less than a pound) when at no time during the period has the account been overdrawn.

The Midland's charges leaflet just says "interest will be charged on any debit balance on a daily basis at the rates then current". On a credit balance, we are told, the allowance against charges is 4 per cent below 7-day deposit rate, but there is no corresponding information about overdraft rates.

The Midland may think their policy is good business, but it is bad customer relations and therefore surely bad business. Perhaps the appalling "listening bank" advertising can be blamed on an agency, but in the bank's reply to Mr Brown's complaint we have an hilarious example of their own ineptness at customer relations: "Unfortunately, the bank's computer is programmed to charge interest at a penal rate when unauthorized overdrafts arise". So it is all the nasty computer's fault! The nice management at the Midland would just live to charge reasonable rates, but unfortunately that horrid computer won't let them.

R. H. PARKER,
64 Poulett Gardens,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

From Mrs Helen Livney

Sir, May I add my voice to those expressing their dissatisfaction with the service they are receiving from their banks? In my case I had given instructions that, provided I was in funds, automatic transfers were to be made from my deposit account to my current account to keep the balance above that at which I was liable for bank charges. This they repeatedly failed to do and I have just discovered from my bank manager that the bank does not have the necessary computer programming to make this come about automatically, having to rely instead on staff checking customers' accounts by hand.

Could one of the directors of my bank, Barclays, explain how it is they are not ploughing some of their vast profits back into the new technology, and at the same time give me a convincing argument as to why I should not transfer my business to a National Giro Bank?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN LIVNEY,
73 Arnos Grove,
Southgate, N14.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account – *no* interest paid. Deposit accounts – Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5½ per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 7 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9⅛ per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 – 1, 3 and 6 months 8¾ per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Flat	APR	Telephone
Aitken Hume monthly inc	8.65	9.00	01 638 6070
B of Scotland	8.80	9.16	01 628 8060
Britannia call	8.875	9.245	01 588 2777
Mallinhall call	8.41	8.71	01 499 6634
Oppenheimer Simco High Interest deposit account	8.40	8.57	01 236 3887
S & P call	8.3452	8.70	0708 66966
Schroder Wagg	8.59	8.80	01 382 6000
Tullet & Riley	8.71	8.92	01 236 0952
T & R 7 day	8.91	9.13	01 236 0952
Tyndall 7 day	8.75	9.03	0272 732241
Tyndall call	8.76	–	0272 732241
UDT 7 day	8.5	9.5	01 623 3020
Western Trust 1 month	8.73	9.09	0752 261161

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts – interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent.

National Savings Certificates 26th Issue
Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.26 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 – max. £200,000. Interest – 11½ per cent variable at six weeks notice – paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice – check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement Issue certificates purchased in November 1978, £177.46 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max £50,000, 11½ per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.
2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent. 3 years Crescent Life 8.5 per cent. 4 years American Life 9.0-10.5 per cent. 5 years Eurolife 9.5 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9¹/₁₆ per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Lambeth 9¼ per cent. 2-3 years Hyndburn 10¼ per cent. 4-8 years Knowsley 11⅛. 9-10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-828 7855 after 3pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts – 7.25 per cent. Term shares – 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes – 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in industry
Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3 years, 10½ per cent; 4-5 years, 10¾ per cent; 6-10 years, 11 per cent; Further information from 3i, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 9¼ per cent; 1 year, 9¼ per cent; 2 years, 10 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

US dollar	8.53 per cent
Yen	5.49 per cent
D Mark	4.58 per cent
French Franc	11 04 per cent
Swiss Franc	1 10 per cent

October RPI: 340.7 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%; £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

● Mortgages

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

● Unit trusts

Policy option

Investors with a maturing London Life endowment policy will now have the option of reinvesting the proceeds in a London Life unit-linked investment bond. This has the advantage of allowing taxpayers to take tax-free income by partial encashments of the bond.

Though the proceeds of a: conventional with-profits endowment are tax-free, most people need to reinvest the lump sum and any income generated by the reinvestment is subject to income tax at the taxpayers' highest rate – plus the investment income surcharg.

Loans link

Personal loans from Midland Bank are available to investors who keep a minimum of £100 in Nationwide Building Society's Flexaccount. This is a valuable service to Nationwide customers who do not have a bank account and would otherwise be forced to borrow under a hire purchase or other credit agreement at much higher rates of interest.

Midland Bank charges between 18 and 19 per cent on personal loans depending on the term – not as cheap as an overdraft, but cheaper than most HP or credit card borrowing.

Tax surprise

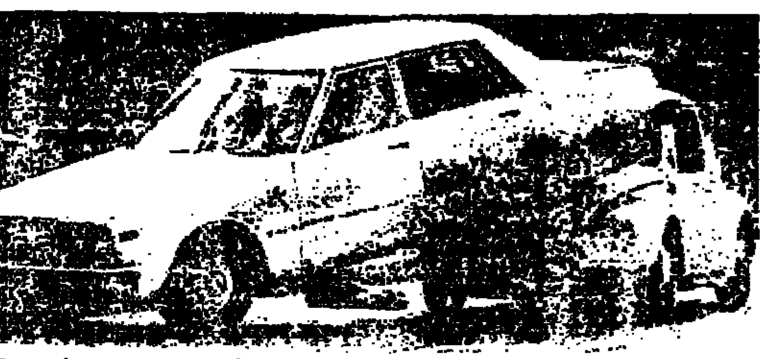
Startling differentials in top rates of tax come to light in a new guide *Personal Taxes Around the World*, produced by the international accountants, Spicer Oppenheim.

The trend towads wealth taxes is reflected in the fact that they now apply in nine of the 24 countries covered in the guide.

The book complements the previous title in the series, *Corporate Taxes Around the World*, and is available from Spicer and Pegler, St Mary Axe House, 56-60 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BJ, price £2.50.

Mortgage hope

Housebuyers having difficulty getting a mortgage should try Skipton Building Society, which announce this week that it has funds available to lend to members and non-members. It s general manager, Mr Tarry Adams, said: "The society can not only look after the mortgage needs of our own members without delay, but we can also offer mortgage facilities – sometimes up to 95 per cent – to certain non-members who may be experiencing delays with other building societies".



Some insurance premiums can be discounted if more than one car is to be covered

Dearer motoring

Legal and General is increasing motor insurance premiums by 7 per cent. "But the company says defending its price like:" a number of car groups have been reduced for rating purposes, and a whole series of discounts have been introduced".

Under the Private Car policy, up to 50 per cent reductions can be obtained for experienced drivers taking out a policy of their own for the first time and there are discounts if more than one car is insured.

But these discounts could be valueless if the initial premium is not competitive. A good way to check is to ring Automobile Association Insurance Services which will give you a quote on the telephone for insuring your car.

Incentives book

Small businesses needing to know how to get the most out of Government and local authority incentive schemes should obtain a copy of Robson Rhodes, the accountants' latest publication. *Government Incentives and Assistance for Industry in the UK*, lists everything from youth employment subsidies to EEC loans and grants to the coal and steel industry.

Did you know that interest-free loans are available to fishing cooperatives or that 15 man-days' unpaid consultancy can be obtained from the Design Council for engineering and industrial companies with design problems? It is all in the book. Perhaps the best part is the comprehensive list of names and addresses.

Chip chat

Help is at hand for the difficult business of choosing a computer. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has published a guide called *Making a Success of Microcomputing in your Business*.

The book suggests sources of unbiased advice, and includes guidelines for a computer contract and a plan for assessing requirements. There is a glossary of technical terms – essential if you are one of those who believe computer programmes are knitting patterns.

Dr David Jackson and Dr Sam Lucas, the authors, are founder members of the Microcomputer Advisory Service at Manchester University. Ben Pannell is a consultant with the Small Firms Advisory Service at the Department of Industry.

Copies of the guide are available price £5.45 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ.

Holiday credit

Holidaymakers who book a holiday through Intasun will be offered revolving credit facility from Boston Trust and Savings which allows them to borrow up to £3,000 at an annual rate of 23.8 per cent.

This is slightly more expensive than credit card borrowing, and about 5 per cent higher than bank personal loans, but a useful facility for any one without a bank account.

Mr Graham Telford, director of Boston Trust & Savings, said: "We expect many people will use the Boston Freedom Credit Account to help finance their next holiday". Borrowers will also get a chequeook, bankers card and monthly statements. Boston has 25 money centres countrywide, five of them in Debenhams department stores.

Mortgages

Home loans queues may disappear

Home loans will be easier to come by in the New Year and mortgage queues may disappear altogether.

This will exert upward pressure on house prices so avoid delay if you are thinking of moving house. By April, the house you want could cost considerably more.

The building societies need to attract about £700m a month to maintain present levels and last month's receipts of £870m meant the £700m ceiling had been exceeded each month since August.

December is looking healthier and January is always a good month as interest is credited to investors' accounts.

Add to this the fact that the societies do not have a Building Societies Association Council meeting in January so no decision to cut rates can be made until February (unless a special meeting is called) and the likelihood is that the societies will be awash with money by March.

Most societies can provide a loan within four weeks during the summer it was 12. But because house owners with more than one building society account often approach several societies there is much duplication of applications.

Once money is available, the queues could disappear.

About the only dark patch on an otherwise bright horizon is that interest rates generally have hardened a little. During the New Year tax-gathering season, demand for nomey is higher than average and there could be further upward pressure on bank base rates.

Estate duty

Play Santa Claus and cut capital transfer taxation

If you are looking for more valuable alternatives to book tokens, silk ties or hampers from Fortnum and Mason to give this Christmas, then pause a moment to consider how much of your estate might go to the tax man.

Gifts made within your lifetime or under annual exemptions often provide worthwhile savings from prospective capital transfer tax (CTT) – the modern equivalent of estate duty.

Even with your house, personal effects, investments and Aunt Martha's legacy bringing your total estate to a relatively modest £200,000, you will find that the prospective CTT amounts to £56,750 with the marginal rate of 50 per cent applying to last £25,000. The marginal rate increases to 60 per cent on estates over £270-00.

You and your spouse are each allowed to give up to £60,000 in value from your nil rate bands, free of CTT. After 10 years gifts drop out of the cumulative total so that you could be free to use your nil rate bands again. Gifts potentially save tax at your highest marginal rate.

Or can also give away £3,000 each this year under the annual exemption and £250 in separate gifts to any number of individuals.

Capital gains tax can also be relevant on gifted assets, although currently there is a £100 small gifts exemption (due to be repealed in 1984).

Grandparents and others may like to gift school fees. For example, for James aged 8 and Anne aged 3, a sum of £10,000 for each will purchase from Royal Insurance five years of higher education fees at almost £1,200 and £1,950 per school term, commencing September 1988 and September 1993 respectively. Any CTT saving deriveed from the gifts makes these schemes particularly worthwhile.

Making significant gifts now not only helps your family immediately but in time savers much despair on the final administration of your estate.

Regular gifts out in income can also be exempt from CTT and those may be suitable for deeds of covenant which can give rise additionally to a saving of basic rate income tax.

But there is no tax saving on covenanted gifts to your own children, under the age of 18. Nephews, nieces and grandchildren of any age and your own children of 18 or above can be helped in this way if they are not taxpayers.

It *is important* to be aware that income arising from any gifts made by parents to minor children will be assessed on the parents. It is therefore preferable to use non-income producing investments such as National Savings certificates, regular or single premium life policies or bonds.

Giving beyond your family, regular gifts under deeds of covenants to charities of up to £5,000 gross annually provide relief additionally against higher rates of income tax and investment income surcharge. Charitable covenants need run for only four years compared with seven years for other covenants.

Should you not wish to covenant to a particular charity, or your gifts to charities and charitable causes tend to be spasmodic, then consider the scheme run by the Charities Aid Foundation under a regular deed of covenant, which allows you to switch between charities.

Gifts made to charities are now exempt without limit from CTT and capital gains tax.

Cross-Channel shopping

Preparation will help to unlock quayside value

There are only six cross-Channel shopping days to Christmas and already the men are in a panic. Spouses who would not be seen dead in their local supermarket seem to take to Continental shopping like ducks to water.

During a Press outing to Boulogne this week, one of my male colleagues left halfway through a splendid lunch to take a taxi to the supermarket with his rucksack. Another appeared festooned with Christmas tinsel: the decorations were much cheaper than at home.

The oddest spectacle of all was my own dear spouse – a teetotaller – scouring the hypermarket wine racks with enthusiasm. Even a dedicated non-drinker could hardly fail to appreciate that the best buys the other side of the water are booze, booze, and more booze.

Basic wine in the hypermarket is a fraction of the price at home. But probably the best buys were five- and ten-litre plastic cans in a wine shop in Calais. They worked out at about 55p a litre (most bottles are three-quarters of a litre). You could taste it before you bought, then it was pumped into the can.

You can bring back up to seven litres of wine per person from France, provided you bring no other alcohol, or 50 litres of beer, which is less than half price at home.

In addition, you can buy up to £120 worth of other goodies. Table basics like olive oil and coffee are nearly half price.

Most of the popular French cheeses are cheaper than in Britain – but not all that much cheaper and they do not keep in the freezer. The paté I bought was roughly the same price as in Britain, but much better quality. Patés do keep in the freezer.

Cross Channel Shopping Prices

	UK	France*
Côtes du Bergerac (bottle)	£2.00	58p
Olive Oil (½ litre)	£1.50	84p
Ground Coffee (1 lb)	£2.75	£1.50
Crediou (1 lb)	£3.20	£2.11
Brie (1 lb)	£1.56	£1.20
Terrine de Campagne	£1.28	£1.28

* 11.8 French francs to the £

There is nothing to stop you bringing back some of the sumptuous French seafood, though the Customs men were not too certain about the live lobsters crawling round the hypermarket's fish stall.

Bulk purchases are probably best made in the hypermarkets, but the smaller town-centre shops are better hunting grounds for the dedicated eater. I spent half an afternoon tasting cheese in Calais and munching free samples from the mouth-watering chocolate shops.

Plenty of hardware goes cheap as well – Le Creuset cookware, for instance, sells at between a third and a quarter less than in Britain. Perhaps brides should hang their wedding lists on the cross-Channel ferry.

Really keen shoppers do not have lunch before they start. Alcohol, I discovered, plays havoc with the calculator. You also tend to spend the best part of the afternoon searching for the paté or cheese you enjoyed so much at mid-day.

It is much easier to take your car across and only a little more expensive. The midweek return cost for four passengers and vehicle from Dover to Boulogne or Calais is £38 and only a little more at weekends. Passengers on foot pay £7.50.

Margaret Drummond

Insurance

Easy steps to cover a slip-up

The cold weather has arrived and betting has started on the chances of a white Christmas. But what happens if someone slips on the snow outside your house or on the garden path?

A Department of Transport spokesman said: "It's helpful if householders can assist by clearing the snow from the pavement in front of their houses. But many people worry about doing this in case passers-by slip on a cleared area, hurt themselves, and then sue the householder.

"Injured passers-by could only do this if they could successfully prove that the householder had been careless in snow clearing and created a new hazard, or made the pavement more dangerous than before."

This is none too reassuring. But provided you have normal household contents insurance cover there is no need to worry. Most household policies (both buildings and contents) contain third-party liability cover.

As an occupier, you would be covered under your contents policy for any successful damages claim arising out of uncleared, or neglegently cleared, snow on your paths or drives.

Third-party liability cover is usually included as standard protection – very occasionally it is an optional extra. Check your policy.

Burst pipes can be a problem, too, particularly if you are planning on going away over Christmas leaving the house empty. Turn the water off at the mains and drain the pipes or you may come back to a flooded house. And remember to cancel milk and newspapers or you will be leaving an open invitation to thieves.

FAMILY MONEY

Unit trust performance

The figures show the value on December 1 of £100 invested 12 months, and three years ago respectively, on an offer-to-offer price basis, net income reinvested. Figures supplied by *Planned Savings*.

FINANCIAL

	12mths	36mths
Britannia Fin Secs	145.3	175.9
Henderson Fin	144.7	158.9
Brit Inv Tst Shrs	144.0	148.9
J Finlay Inv Tst	143.9	185.9
S & P Scotbits	140.8	162.7
Nat West Fin	140.6	182.8
Hill Samuel Fin	140.2	150.8
Practical	140.1	175.0
Target Inv Tst	140.0	175.1
S&P Inv Tst Units	139.9	168.2
Brit Prop Shrs	138.5	127.7
S&P Fin Secs	137.7	188.3
Tyndall Fin & Prp	137.3	131.3
M&G Fd of In Tst	136.7	165.1
Target Financial	136.6	166.8
Brown Ship Fin	135.4	134.4
Barclayunic Fin	135.4	134.5
K Bensn Fd In Tst	129.4	162.0
Legal&Gen gilt	122.0	
Arbthnt Fin & Prp	121.5	127.0
Holborn Glt	119.8	
Frgtn Con&Glt	118.5	
Canlf Glt&Fd Int	117.6	
Allied Glt Grwth	117.0	
Prolific Glt Cap	116.3	
Hendrsn Fxd Ints	116.1	
S&P Interni Bnd	116.0	158.1
Tyndl Glt Cap	115.9	
Abbey W Bnd	115.5	170.9
Eqy&Law gt Fx In	115.3	
Britannia Gilt	115.3	148.0
Hill S Gt&Fi gth	114.8	
Rowan Fxd Int	114.7	
Gre Glt&Fxd Ints	114.7	
Cater Allen Glt	113.9	149.9
Manulfe Gt&Fx In	113.8	
Abby Glt&Fxd Int	113.5	143.3
Tgt Glt Inc	113.4	145.4
Fdlty Glt Fix Int	113.4	147.6
Nelstar Glt Fx Int	113.1	
Gartmore Gilt	113.1	144.5
Henderson Gilt	112.9	130.4
Hill Sml Glt Fi Inc	122.5	144.2
Mid Bk Glt Fx Int	122.4	143.0
Target Gilt Capital	111.9	143.2
Bclyne Glt Inc	111.9	143.8
Abthnt Glt Fx Int	111.9	137.8
Schrdr Glt Fx Int	111.8	
MG Gt Fx Int Inc	111.8	150.8
Mercury Gilt	111.7	
Rowan High Int	111.6	
Barrington Gt Yd	111.4	
TSB Glt & Fd It	111.1	
Allied Gov Sec	111.1	151.4
Tyndall Glt In	110.7	141.1
Gartmore Fx Int	110.3	
S&P Glt & Fxd Int	110.0	143.7
Craigmount Gilt	109.2	124.0
S&P Glt & Fx It Ic	108.0	136.9
Tyndall Pref	107.8	148.7
Target Pref Shs	106.0	155.4
Britannia Pref Shs	104.8	123.4
Arbuthnot Pf Sh	104.8	141.7
Chieftain Pf & Glt	103.1	119.5
Key Fixed Int	100.8	149.5
Henderson P & G	94.8	135.4

GROWTH

	12mths	36mths
Prolific Tech	158.1	
HK Technology	153.9	188.8
Brwn Shply Tech	152.4	
Brewin Capital	151.8	
F&C Capital	150.1	170.6
Tyndall Spec Sits	150.0	204.4
FFI & Tgt Sml Cs	149.7	
Trgt Spec Sits	147.0	155.1
Hill Sml Spec Sits	146.3	200.5
Schrdr Spec Sits	145.7	
Prific Spec Sit	145.6	
Brwn Ship Rcvy	145.3	120.1
M&G Magnum	145.0	149.5
Oppnhmr Spc Sits	144.7	128.3
Fidlty Spec Sits	142.9	183.5
NPI Growth	142.2	194.2
M&G Con Grwth	141.8	159.8
Mid Bk Sml Cos	141.5	
Brltn Rcvy	140.3	154.0
Guadrant Recvy	139.7	150.0
Bshpgte Prgrsv	139.4	191.9
Cannon Growth	139.1	
Brclync Rcvy	138.5	191.6
Dncn Lwr Grwth	138.2	127.4
Prptl Grwth	137.2	199.5
Gartmre Brit	136.0	179.7
M&G Rcvy	135.8	144.4
Crwn Grwth	135.6	
Hndrson Rcvy	135.3	133.7
Pearl Growth	135.1	172.1
Schrdr Genrl	133.6	203.9
Vngrd Spec Sits	133.4	183.8
M&G Cpnd Grth	132.5	142.6
Nat Wst Grth Invt	132.3	172.4
Hill Sml Cptl	132.2	166.8
Brwn Shply Grth	131.9	161.9
Brdge Captl	131.7	146.3
Allied Tech	131.7	197.2
Allied Recovery	131.1	178.1
TSB Select Opport	130.8	
GT Capital	130.7	182.9
Mid Bank Capital	129.2	154.2
TSB General	129.1	166.6
S&P Capital	128.6	168.0
Brit Assets	128.6	163.8
Framlington Cap	128.4	178.5
MGM UK Growth	128.0	
Craigmount Recy	127.8	152.4
Gartmore Ins Ags	127.1	157.9
Allied Accum	127.1	170.4
Brit Spec Mkt Sits	126.9	139.8
Stewart Brit Cap	126.2	176.4
Manulife Growth	125.7	152.0
Henderson Spl Sits	125.5	210.0
Nat West Cap	125.4	176.1
Eqy & Law UK Gth	124.7	
Britannia Growth	124.6	130.6
Tyndall Capital	124.2	129.9
Barclayunic Cap	124.2	160.9
Arkwright	124.2	
Tynd Smll Comp	124.1	149.7
Barcunic Gth Acc	123.6	154.5
Crescent Cap	123.5	
Vanquard Growth	122.5	149.3
Friends Prov Eqty	122.0	216.4
Royal Trust Cap	121.8	154.0
Gart UK SM Cs Rc	121.6	
James Capel Cap	121.5	184.3
Archway Growth	121.2	
Britt Cap Accm	121.0	132.3
S&P Spec Sit	120.6	
S&P smll Cos Inc	119.9	194.1
Royal Life Equ	119.4	
Stratton	118.3	160.9
Abbey UK Growth	118.2	152.6
Allied Ovseas Earns	118.1	180.7
Austin Friars Grth	117.2	
Abbey Ass & Earngs	116.5	
Gartmre Spec Sits	115.6	128.3
HK Private	112.9	129.0
Arbut Cap Grth	111.9	120.5
Hend Cap Gth	105.2	153.0

INCOME

	12mths	36mths
Cannon Income	168.4	
F&C Income	148.8	179.3
M&G Mid & Gen	148.2	188.9
Schroder Inc	146.8	200.0
Crown High Inc	146.3	
Nat West Ex Inc	143.8	203.5
TSB Ex Inc	143.0	
M&G Dividend	141.6	182.6
Key Income	138.2	195.8
Eq & Law High Inc	137.9	
Rowan High Yield	137.8	187.6
Bridge Inc	137.5	152.0
S&P Scotyields	137.2	181.0
Brown Ship H Inc	137.1	167.3
Pearl Inc	137.0	188.3
L&C Income	136.9	176.9
M&G High Inc	136.7	179.3
Brown Shipley Inc	136.6	187.7
Tyndall Scot Inc	136.3	184.0
Midland Bk Inc	136.2	174.0
Allied High Inc	136.1	199.8
Fidty Max Inc Ety	135.8	193.4
Framlington Ex Inc	135.5	178.8
Tyndall Inc	135.4	169.9
MGM High Inc	135.4	
S&P High Yield	135.1	175.0
Hendsn Inc&Grth	135.1	215.1
S&P High Return	134.1	179.8
James Capel Inc	131.0	196.4
Barclayunic Ex Inc	133.9	170.8
Hill Samuel Inc	133.7	180.3
TSB Inc	133.6	206.9
Royal Trust Inc	133.5	158.8
Mid Bk High Yld	133.4	169.8
Tyndall H Yld Fnd	133.0	153.5
New Court Inc	133.0	175.7
M&G Ex Yield	132.5	170.2
Lloyds Bk Income	132.5	177.6
Nat West Income	132.4	203.0
Nelstar Hgh Incme	132.1	154.6
Klnwrt Bsn Hgh In	132.1	167.5
Abbey Hgh Inc Eqty	132.1	188.3
Brtania Nt Hgh Inc	131.9	173.1
Lloyds Bk Extra Inc	131.7	173.8
Canlife Income	131.6	173.5
Ridgefield Income	131.5	145.9
Allied Equity Inc	131.5	186.1
Fidelity Gth Inc	131.0	166.7
Target Income	130.9	190.0
Prolific High Inc	130.9	192.6
Barrington Hgh Inc	130.3	167.5
Henderson Ext Inc	130.0	193.0
Hill Samul Hgh Inc	129.6	172.2
Aitken Hme Sec In	129.4	151.6
Vanguard Hgh Inc	129.3	159.8
Gartmore Income	129.3	188.5
Britania Inc & Gth	129.1	170.6
Framlington Inc	129.0	181.8
Arbuthnot Hgh Inc	128.0	144.5
Perpetual Income	127.9	207.3
Target Ex Income	127.6	183.7
S&P Income	127.6	169.4
Hndrsn Sml Cs Div	127.5	177.3
Henderson Hgh Inc	127.3	179.2
Chiefln Inc & Gth	127.3	142.4
Opnhimr In & Gth	127.1	147.2
Mcanaly Delphi In	127.1	152
Barclayunic Inc	127.1	193.8
Tr Inc Monthly	126.1	161.9
Cresent Grth & Inc	125.8	166.7
M&G Cnversion In	125.6	170.9
Allied High Yield	125.5	166.2
Wickmor Dividnd	125.3	171.5
Cresent Hgh Dist	125.3	175.8
Gartmore Extra Inc	125.0	152.8
GT Income	124.6	149.7
Mayflower Income	124.2	167.7
Middle Mt Hgh Inc	121.9	130.6
Britannia Ex Inc	121.9	166.8
Arbuthnot Hgh Yld	121.8	136.9
James Finly Hgh In	121.5	151.2
Buckmstr Cumbrld	121.1	143.0
Duncan Lawrie Inc	119.8	142.5
Quadrant Income	118.7	149.3
Gartmore High Inc	118.0	158.8
Chieftan High Inc	117.9	131.2
Lawson High Yield	114.2	
Craigmount Hgh In	113.2	131.8
HK Income	106.3	117.2
HK Extra Income	99.9	112.0
Schrdr Sml Co	150.6	245.9
Frmlngtn Rcvy	149.7	
Roman Merlin	148.8	157.4
Leo Capital	146.5	226.7
Barclayunic Gen	142.9	196.8
Mencap	139.7	
Archway	137.8	149.6
Brit Smlr Cos	137.6	238.4
Arbthnt Sml Cos	136.7	256.7
Minister	136.0	196.8
Family Fund	135.0	172.7
Brit Shld	134.9	120.2
Brn Shiply Fnd	134.5	157.8
Brngtn Smlr Cos	134.3	184.9
Alied Blancd	134.1	177.3
Lds Bk Sm Co Rc	133.4	210.5
Hil Sml Brt	133.0	168.3
MG Sml Copns	132.8	164.7
Bckmstr Smlr Cos	132.6	
M&G Gen	132.5	164.9
M&G Truste	132.4	173.5
Ryl Lon Cap Ac	131.8	
Hil Sam Sec	131.7	163.6
T&G Colco	131.5	168.4
Pelican	131.4	192.6
Pearl Trust	131.4	178.0
Wickmoor	130.9	153.5
Nt Wst Prflo	130.7	158.6
Trds Union Unt	130.6	165.8
Anderson	130.5	153.3
M&G SecGen	130.4	174.1
Hil Saml Sml Cs	130.1	
S&P Uk Eqty	130.0	168.4
Alied Frst	130.0	155.6
HK Sml Compns	129.3	197.4
MLA	129.2	257.6
Barngtn Gen	128.6	187.8
Target Ety	128.4	150.0
Britannia Dom	128.4	153.9
Equity & Law Gen	127.7	177.1
Nelstar Un Grp	127.1	139.4
Norwich Un Grp	127.0	190.9
Allied Brit Ind	127.0	161.2
Reliance Brit Life	126.7	170.7
Prudential	126.3	162.5
Barclaytrst Inv	126.2	172.4
Pegasus Equity	125.9	
Gt Tech & Growth	125.8	
Electra Small Co	125.7	200.7
Quadrant General	125.4	186.2
Nat West Rec	125.4	
Confed Growth	125.4	162.4
Canlife General	125.4	161.5
Legal & Gen Eq	124.8	197.2
New Crt Small C	124.7	183.2
Standard Life Eq	124.6	
Scottish Eq Unit	124.3	168.9
Rown Securities	124.2	160.1
Britannia C & I	124.1	134.4
T&G Barbican	124.0	170.0
McAnally Glen	123.5	150.7
Tyndall Int Earngs	123.3	140.2
Equitas	122.8	152.8
Hend'son In & As	122.4	149.6
Barclayun Pro As	122.4	143.5
Barclayunic Trus	122.2	179.7
Allied Smaller Co	121.9	161.9
Vanguard Trustee	121.1	162.3
NatWest Sm Cos	121.0	214.9
Mercury General	121.0	199.8
Klnwrt B UK E G	121.0	158.0
Barclayunic '500'	121.0	178.2
Buckmaster Buck	120.9	135.6
Aitken Hum I & G	120.8	121.8
Allied Sec Sm Cos	120.6	178.3
Fielding Fund	120.4	
G and A	120.3	164.7
Lloyds Bk Bal'd	120.0	172.9
Allied Gth & In	120.0	175.8
Abbey General	120.0	169.0
Lloyds Life Equity	119.4	160.2
Guardhill	119.3	148.0
Brit UK Blue Chip	118.6	149.9
Aitk Hume Sp Sits	118.6	163.9
Murray Sm Cos	117.7	
Northgate	117.1	128.1
S&P Scotshares	116.6	140.5
Allied Capital	116.6	177.3
Robert Fraser	115.2	82.5
College Hill	114.8	168.6
Friars House	114.8	137.2
Klnwrt Ben Sm Cos	114.7	188.5
Reliance	114.5	155.9
Key Equity & Gen	114.0	137.1
Mayflower General	113.4	168.8
Discretionary	112.9	159.6
Aitk Hume Sm Cos	112.2	174.3
HK Market Leaders	111.5	125.6
Chieftain Sm Cos	108.5	130.9

OVERSEAS

	12mths	36mths
Gt European	204.4	
Abbey Japan	192.0	
Fidelity Japan	184.4	
Henderson Erpan	180.6	244.6
Oppen Int Grth	179.9	291.9
Crescent Tokyo	176.5	338.3
Barrington Erpan	171.3	242.4
TSB Japan	170.0	
HK Japan	169.0	
M&G Jpn & Gnl	166.7	229.7
F&C Far Eastn	165.8	
HndnPcSml Cos	164.9	171.9
Hill Sml Erpean	164.4	
Tyndall Far Estn	163.4	209.3
Mdld Bk Jpn & Pc	163.1	235.2
Britt Jpn Perfce	162.0	208.2
Henderson Japan	158.7	256.4
Gartmore Japan	158.1	243.1
Prolfc Far Eastn	158.0	
New Crt America	157.5	213.1
Gt Far Et & Gnl	157.5	157.5
Allied Japan	156.6	
Arbthnt Et & Int	156.5	19.2
Hndn Amer Recy	155.6	
S&P Eurpn Grth	155.5	198.5
Brown Shpy Ort	155.0	
Dartn Tll Perf	153.8	171.9
Stewart Eurpn	153.4	
Ridgefld Int	153.3	158.5
Barrgton Pac	153.3	200.7
Schroder Aus	153.1	
Gt Japan & Gen	153.0	247.1
M&G Aus & Gen	152.8	68.4
Schroder Tokyo	152.6	
S&P Select Int	152.2	169.1
Arbnt Forn Grth	151.9	243.1
Barclyunic Aus	151.7	92.3
M&G Amen Revy	150.9	294.3
Target US Sp Bnd	150.7	
GT US & General	150.7	237.1
Schroder Europn	150.1	
S&P Japan Grwth	150.0	241.6
Tyndall Int Grth	149.9	215.2
Hendrsn Glbl Tch	149.9	
HK F East & Gen	148.9	145.0
Targt Mlay & Sing	148.3	
S&P New Techgy	148.1	
Brclyunic Gr Pcif	147.6	
Murray European	147.2	141.5
Royal Life Int	147.0	
Gartmre Glbl Strt	146.8	150.2
Allied Am Sp Sits	146.6	
Eqity & Lw F East	146.4	
Llyds Bk Pcif Bsin	146.2	
Hill Samuel F East	146.1	259.8
Schrdr Sing & Mly	146.0	
NPI Overseas	145.9	188.7
Allied Pacific	144.8	167.2
Britnnia Wd Tech	144.5	
Prolific Intl	144.3	197.5
Henderson Intl	144.3	183.0
Frmlngtn US Trn	144.3	262.9
Eqity & Lw N Am	144.1	
Lloyds Bk Intl Tch	143.8	221.7
Craigmnt Canadn	143.7	105.8
Frmlngtn Int Grth	143.3	229.3
Gartmore Amer	142.8	173.1
Aitkn Hm Am Tch	142.6	227.7
Fidelity American	142.5	230.9
Target Pacific	141.3	170.5
Fidlty Am Sp Sits	141.3	193.7
Bishopsgate Int	141.3	225.4
Brclyunic Wldwdc	141.3	156.1
S&P Utd Sts Grth	141.1	211.8
S&P Univ Grwth	140.6	127.8
Brwin I Gth&Inc	140.5	
M&G Am & Gen	140.4	232.8
Mdld Bk Oseas Gr	140.3	163.5
Chieftain Int	140.3	118.0
Nat W Jap & Pac	140.0	
Manulife Int Grth	139.7	
L&C Intntl & Gen	139.5	141.5
S&P S E Asia Grth	139.4	104.0
Chieftain Far East	139.4	177.4
Allied Secs of Am	139.4	200.6
Bridge Int Rec	139.3	174.4
Perp Worldw Rec	139.1	
Hend Am Sm Cos	139.0	227.1
HK American	139.0	164.4
Stewart American	137.8	216.3
Martin Currie	137.7	172.0
Duncan Lwrie Ov	137.6	105.1
Govett Euro Grth	137.5	130.6
Hill Samuel Int	137.5	197.5
Allied Intntnl	137.2	160.0
Lloyds Bk N Am	137.1	184.6
Can & Forgn Int	137.1	
Mid Bk N Am	136.5	188.8
Nelstar Intntnl	136.2	186.2
Henderson Austr	135.7	187.4
Chieftain Amer	135.7	156.6
Fidelity Man Int	135.2	
Tyndall N Amer	135.0	202.9
GT International	135.0	169.6
Barclayunic Am	135.0	177.1
Buckmaster Marl	134.8	161.6
Target Am Eagle	134.8	189.1
Schroder Int	134.6	169.8
Aitken Hume Pac	134.6	145.7
Hill Samuel Dol	134.6	199.7
Targ Wwide Cap	134.3	175.8
Framlington Am	134.3	244.9
Crescent Interntnl	134.3	163.6
J Capel N Am	134.3	203.1
Lloyds Bk Ww Gr	134.0	173.6
James Finlay Int	134.0	164.8
Prolific N Amer	133.7	
Mercury Interntnl	133.4	149.6
Brown Ship N Am	133.4	173.9
Abbey Amer Grth	132.9	176.4
Grtmr Fr Estn	132.8	108.2
MG Fr Estn Gnrl	132.5	126.6
TSB Amrcn	132.4	
Nt Wst Nth Amcn	131.4	142.4
Brngtn Nth Amcn	131.4	200.4
Qdrnt Intnl	131.0	181.7
Chfin Astrln	131.0	
Hdrs Nth Amcn	130.7	211.8
World Wide	130.3	146.9
Rowan America	129.4	199.5
Grtmr Austrln	129.4	
Schrdr Amrcn	129.2	
Brt Amr Sml Cs	129.1	206.8
Myflwr Intnl	128.3	164.6
Brt Amr Spc Sts	127.9	162.2
Abthnt Nth Amcn	127.9	182.9
TSB Intnl	127.3	174.7
M&G Erpn & Gnl	127.2	125.6
Crgmnt Nth Amn	127.0	144.5
Bk Irlnd Brt Ovs	124.8	
Fldng Intnl	124.7	157.7
Chfln Gbl Rcvy	124.3	
Brtn Amrn Gwth	122.9	173.1
Crscnt Amrn	122.8	156.2
Mrry Amrcn	121.0	
Brtn Intnl Grth	121.0	115.1
Stockholders	119.9	153.7
Brdg Amrcn Gen	118.3	158.7
Wielr Grth	118.2	134.7
Bckmn Intnl Cptl	113.9	
Brit Fr Est	110.6	98.7
Brt Hn Kng Prfm	106.5	

SPECIALIST

	12mths	36mths
Aitk'n Hum E & R	171.1	113.0
Tyndall Nat Res	157.4	100.8
Target Commod	156.5	152.1
Abbey Com Engy	143.6	112.4
Allied Mt Ms & C	143.3	146.8
M&G Com & Gen	142.0	118.7
Hill Sam Nat Res	141.5	
Hend'sn O & N R	139.1	112.2
Target Energy	137.8	75.3
Britannia Un Egy	136.0	67.6
S&P Comm Share	135.8	107.1
Arb'not Com Sh	135.7	86.1
Midland Bk Comd	135.1	96.0
S&P Engy Indust	133.9	80.3
Gartmore O & En	133.0	
Lloyds Bk En In	130.8	
S&P Exploration	128.4	76.7
New Court En Rs	128.3	75.8
Target Gold	127.4	
Nat West Energy	127.3	
James Fin Wld En	124.2	70.3
Britannia Cm Sh	124.1	84.8
Chieftain Bs Rs	119.2	65.9
Brit'nia Gd & Gen	116.2	120.8
HK Com & Gen	113.9	106.9

House Buyers Bill

Lawyers aim to get in on the Act

The surprise success yesterday of Mr Austin Mitchell's House Buyers Bill means it now goes to committee stage where it is generally thought the Government will do its best to kill it off, even though it will be reluctant to ignore the powerful solicitors' lobby.

But, Mr William Heath and Mr Edwin Lee, of William Heath & Company, the solicitors, suggest that if building societies and others are allowed to handle conveyancing, the solicitors should consider having their own building society.

They believe that building societies and banks will want to offer a conveyancing service and that solicitors should be looking at ways to compete.

Solicitors, they say, would have their own building society – either by acquiring one, or by setting up a new one.

Mr Lee says: "The Ecological Building Society recently emerged as an alternative lending institution and there is no reason why solicitors should not set up their own society."

He envisages a head office, preferably in a low-cost area such as Corby, in Northamptonshire, where subsidies are available for offices, equipment and personnel. This would house the central computer which would be the heart of the new system, linked to solicitors' offices throughout the country.

"This would in turn be linked to computers installed or about to be set up at the Land Registry, Land Charges Registry and individual local authority land charges departments.

"Each solicitors' office would be able to obtain information from, and place information on, the computers via the main solicitors building society computer.

"Mr Lee says without this type of 'clout' individual firms of solicitors will be powerless when the banks and building societies undertake their own conveyancing and are able to negotiate exclusive deals with the various statutory bodies and the computer companies supplying the equipment."

The vendor's solicitor would be able to tap in the contract title on the office terminal to be printed almost immediately on the printer at the offices of the purchaser's solicitor.

The purchaser's solicitor could then tap in his preliminary inquiries, requisitions on his office terminal to be printed likewise almost immediately on the printer at the offices of the vendor's solicitor.

In the case of registered land, copies of all relevant documents could be obtained by the vendor's solicitor from the Land Registry computer and likewise printed at the purchaser's solicitor's office.

On exchange and completion the purchaser's solicitor could tap in an appropriate instruction to debit his client account at headquarters and credit the vendor's solicitor's client account at headquarters.

At the end of the transaction the vendor's title would be stored on the headquarters computer. This would remove the need for much of today's expensive typing, telephoning, photocopying and postage.

Mr Lee believes that one office in a low-cost area being high technology, should ensure drastically lower overheads, than the big building societies, with their many branches on expensive sites, regional centres and headquarters with an army of personnel.

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week

Authorized Unit Trusts

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Current Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]					

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AND THE FIRST LITTLE PIGGY WENT HOME.

WOODY ANNABEL MAXWELL LADY HILARY SIR NATHANIEL

The NatWest Piggy Bank is an exciting new saving scheme for younger children, designed around a family of beautiful porcelain pigs.

It works like this.

£3 opens a Piggy Bank Account, of which £1 covers membership. This includes a delightful "Woody Westminster" piggy bank and a saving pack.

The pack contains everything your child will need to run a NatWest Piggy Bank Account; membership card, paying-in book, wallet, explanatory brochure, account record book, Woody's Wobbly wall chart and painting crayons.

At the regular statement despatch dates in July and January, provided enough has been saved, the young NatWest Piggy Banker will receive the next piggy in the family absolutely free.

First, Woody's sister Annabel when the balance reaches £25, then elder brother Maxwell at £50, and mother and father – Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel – at £75 and £100 respectively.

Interest is paid twice a year in June and December initially at 5½%. Unlike the Building Societies, the NatWest Piggy Bank pays interest without deducting income tax.

The Piggy Bank is no ordinary saving scheme. The fun of collecting all five piggies provides a series of goals which will positively encourage your child to save.

For full details, trotter long to the Piggy Bank today.



NatWest
The Action Bank

National Westminster Bank PLC 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Aspinall Holdings 10p Ord (115a)	140
BP 25p Ord (435*)	166–2
Brewmaker 1p Ord (33.25pa)	32
Federated Housing 5p Ord (54a)	45
French Connection GRP 5p Ord (123a)	141
High-Point services 10p Ord (137a)	138–2
Johnsen & Jorgensen 10p Ord (85a)	88
Kenyon Securities 25p Ord (139a)	178+3
Logica 10p Ord (220*)	275+5
MME Facilities 10p Ord (40a)	40
Melton 10p Ord (96a)	95
Moray Firth Maltings 50p Ord (195a)	237+20
PCT 10p Ord (150a)	152–3
Page (Michael) 5p Ord (90a)	109
Pericom 10p Ord (140a)	163
Peters M. 25p Ord (85a)	96
Prosumeter 5p Ord (26.5a)	31
Tay Homes 25p Ord (90a)	92+1
Tyne Tees 100p "A" NV (135a)	138
Woodchester Investments IR 20p (IR 84a)	170

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Glaxo's lucky run ends

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

The Americans yesterday became sellers of Glaxo – one of Britain's biggest drug manufacturers – and overnight dissolved what promised to be a week of good fortune.

Yesterday, the shares slipped a further 5p to 715p, after 707p, a decline this week of 15p. This was in spite of the US food and Drug Administration recommending approval for the group to market its anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, in an injectable form this week.

At present, Zantac, taken in oral form, has cornered about 20 per cent of the US anti-ulcer market worth about $97m (£67m) a year since it was introduced there during the autumn.

Broker de Zoete & Bevan is pleased with the news and estimates the important hospital market in the US is worth $75m annually. Unfortunately, American investors are now rushing to sell the shares to establish favourable tax positions before the year-end and this has depressed the price in London.

But de Zoete says Glaxo is attractive at this price and is recommending the shares as a "buy". De Zoete is also keen on **Fisons**, down 2p at 737p, but is less than impressed by **Beecham Group**, down 1p at 320p, and **Amersham International**, 2p lower at 204p, which look on the dear side.

Relations between Mr Chandra Singh's Ravensdale Securities and the broker Statham Duff Stoop appear to have soured. Statham admitted yesterday that it had resigned as broker to Metal Sciences, the shot-blasting gritmaker which joined the USM in June with a placing of 10.8 million shares at 11p a share. Ravensdale were the sponsors. Laing & Cruickshank have now been appointed brokers.

Elsewhere, the rest of the equity market was enjoying a firm close to the first leg of the long, three-week account, with the *FT* Index rising 6.5 to 759.3.

Bid situations again dominated the market's mood with **Hanson Trust's** bid for London Brick helping sentiment.

Gilts showed little sign of activity with the latest slow down in the level of inflation being countered by some worse-than-expected public sector borrowing requirement figures. On the foreign exchange, the pound failed to consolidate of Thursday's rally, losing 25 points at $1.4140.

But bank shares were hit by the news of the losses by Midland Bank's United States subsidiary, **Crocker International**, which wiped 53p from the parent at 384p. **Barclays** was also bothered by fears it was having problems in the United States with the oil market, but closed above the worst levels of the day. The shares eventually lost 3p at 484p. Another big loser was **Lloyds Bank**, 17p down at 537p.

Among the merchant banks, **Hill Samuel** lost 20p to 328p on profit taking. Speculation has been rife all week that the group is in talks with an American bidder and there were suggestions yesterday that these talks might have stalled. Hill Samuel said: "We never comment on market gossip". The price is still 8p up on the week and 151p above its low for the year.

London and Liverpool Trust shares plunged to 24p at one stage yesterday amid rumours of heavy losses on its Telejector project. The price later recovered to 28p. Lloyds Bowmaker Finance Group, part of Lloyds and Scottish, is said to be making a £7m write-off of its £11m investment in the project. A Lloyds Bowmaker spokesman said: "We cannot discuss a customer's business. We have an investment in London and Liverpool and we own no shares." Lloyds Scottish shares eased 1p to 47p.

In leaders **Tate & Lyle** was a flat market, falling 8p to 365p. Earlier this week Lord Hanson's, Trust, was believed to have placed around 2.75 million shares, ahead of bidding for London Brick. Unfortunately, Hanson never comment. But the bid for LB sparked-off renewed interest in several other companies including **Baggeridge Brick**, up 8p to 138p, **Ibstock Johnsen**, 8p to 172p and **Nottingham Brick**, 15p to 430p.

Mr Eric Parker's services to **Trafalgar House** Where he is now group chief executive have been recognised: he is the sole member of an executive share option scheme set up this year. He has an option over 250,000 Trafalgar shares – the maximum possible under the scheme's rules, at a price of 204p, the price reigning on December 6, the day before the scheme was set up.

Trafalgar's shares were unchanged yesterday at 206p.

WALL STREET PRICES & COMMENT

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

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LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

PLANTATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Money Market Rates

Other Markets

Dollar Spot Rates

Euro-$ Deposits

Gold

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FOOTBALL: ARSENAL CHAIRMAN IS FORCED TO ACT OVER MANAGER UNDER PERSONAL STRESS

Charlton and Venables enter the reckoning as Neill is dismissed

By David Miller

A week ago Arsenal's chairman Peter Hill-Wood's intention was to stay calm in adversity. Yesterday the club decided to dismiss their manager, Terry Neill. The decision was forced by an acceptance that Neill has been under more personal stress than his urbane Irish humour ever allowed to be publicly apparent.

The most obvious possible successor to Neill, who has two years of his contract to run, are the currently available Jack Charlton and, I would expect Terry Venables, whose contract with Queen's Park Rangers expires next autumn. For the moment Neill's assistant Don Howe, who last year turned down the opportunity of joining the FA on a full-time basis, will be in charge, starting at home to Watford today.

Howe would be a candidate, Hill-Wood said yesterday, when the position is advertised, but it would probably make sense in Arsenal's present circumstances for a total change from the Neill/Howe regime. Although Howe, an outstanding coach who also worked with Bertie Mee's championship-winning side, was responsible for giving coherence to Ron Greenwood's squad in the World Cup, it is not logical to suppose that as former No 2 he would succeed where Neill has, by Arsenal's standard, failed.

I think Hill-Wood will want a combination of several characteristics in the man to take command of London's most famous club – by which I do not intend any slight upon illustrious neighbours Tottenham Hotspur, in whose shadow Arsenal have lived uncomfortably in the past two or three seasons.

Established proficiency of coaching success and leadership must be taken for granted, but I think Hill-Wood, who succeeded his father as chairman, will also want a forthright character capable of controlling and inspiring star players. Charlton is that kind of man, even if his direct North Eastern conversation might occasionally turn Highbury's marble halls a shade of blue, a contrast to Neill's polite blarney and the correct bureaucratic manner of Mee.



Charlton: forthright.

Venables: under contract.

The question must be whether Charlton would want the London life, would forego his love of going shooting with his dog on the Yorkshire moors: whether he still has the energy at 50 for the enormous challenge which Arsenal would offer and the achievement they would expect, even if he did, in vain, hope to be interviewed for Bobby Robson's job with England.

Venables, of course, is the archetypal Londoner, and it must remain to be seen if he will apply while at present under contract, in which case Arsenal would have to seek permission from Jim Gregory to discuss the possibilities. Hill-Wood would certainly not breach the gentleman's agreement not to poach other club's managers, and indeed Luton's chairman Denis Mortimer was quick to state yesterday that if approached for the admirable David Pleat, he would be obliged to say no. "He is very good, and we intend to keep him."

In fact, it must be wondered whether Arsenal would want an essentially low-key manager such as Pleat, or Graham Taylor, who has had such a remarkable success from the lower divisions with Watford. It will also be suggested by outsiders that Arsenal should consider Lawrie McMenemy, if he was interested, but I think it is improbable that Hill-Wood would go for him. Sadly, the time has passed when Arsenal would be interested in Miljanic from Yugoslavia, for he is now past his prime and taken up with earnign hard currency in Kuwait. He missed his chance in 1974 when Arsenal first went for him. When that innovative move failed, they appointed Neil.

It is only two weeks since Hill-Wood stated that there was no intention of reacting to the outcry from Highbury supporters to make changes, but in the last few days he must have become convinced that it was necessary.

Hill-Wood stressed yesterday that he was sad to have to part company with a man who had been a friend for 20 years. Neill joined Arsenal at 17 from Bangor, was made captain by Billy Wright and remained 11 years before moving to Hull, aged 28, as player-manager for four years. At the same time he was manager of Northern Ireland, a post he relinquished when he moved to Spurs. He resigned there, having succeeded Bill Nicholson, and a month later took the vacancy which Miljanic had failed to fill.

In seven and a half years under Neill's management Arsenal never finished lower than 10th in the first division, though this season they have slumped to 16th with only seven wins in 17 matches.

He took them to three successive FA Cup Finals, of which they won only the middle one, in 1979 against Manchester United. He spent £7.5 million, of which he recouped £4.5 million, but he was severely criticised two seasons ago for allowing Brady and Stapleton to leave, and several more recent expensive signings such as Chapman from Stoke, the Yugoslav Petrovic and Nicholas from Celtic this season, have not been successful He recently paid £500,000 for Caton, of Manchester City, and it remains to be seen whether, under new direction, Caton can help to stop the undoubted rot which has set in.

Graham and Moran push United to the top

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Manchester U 4
Tottenham H 2

Tottenham Hotspur hit back twice with goals from Brazil and Falco at Old Trafford last night but could not stop Manchester United gaining the victoy that put them two points clear at the top of the first division. Graham and Moran shared united goals.

The opening dozen minutes were liberally sprinkled with errors but that should be no surprise. The two most attacking sides in the country have the nerve and the imagination to play outside the textbook and more than not they reject the route to safety in favour of adventure. That is their respective strength and the foundation for their popularity.

The mistakes were committed by Thomas, who allowed Robson to hit Tottenham's bar, by Graham, who let Falco in to take on Bailey, and by Stevens and Clemence. They each felt that Graham's low cross was the other's responsibility, and Whiteside and Robson merely watched it drift in front of them and inside the far post.

United deserved the lead, if not in such bizarre circumstance, for taking the initiative and nowhere was it more apparent than in midfield where Hoddle was overshadowed by his England colleagues, Wilkins and Robson. But the most artistic touches came from Muhren, restored to the United side after injury.

With featherweight chips, he released both Wilkins and Robson and then, encouraged to go forward on his own, saw his heavyweight volley headed off the line by Falco. Yet United's defence, with Duxbury moving over to replace the absent McQueen, suffered moments of anxiety when Tottenham in turn pushed forward.

Their equaliser in the fifty-third minute was a personal breakthrough for Brazil, who must have regarded Old Trafford more like the Old Bailey so much did he feel on trial. At least he proved his case. After Hoddle's lob had been nodded down by O'Reilly, he scored his first League goal for Tottenham this season with a spectacular overhead kick.

United were back in front within a minute. Clemence had already watched Stapleton fire over from close range, and saved from Graham before turning aside another effort from Stapleton. From the ensuing corner, nothing short of a steamroller was going to deny Moran, who forcefully claimed his first goal since early September.

Clemence, after twice denying Stapleton, was beaten again from the next corner, Graham heading in at the far post in the seventy-third minute. But Tottenham replied immediately, Falco being given the opportunity from the firm touch of Ardiles, returning for only his fifth game in two years.

Moran added United's fourth in the eightieth minute after a terrible mistake by Clemence.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G Bailey; R Moses, A Albiston, R Wilkins, K Moran, M Duxbury, B Robson, A Muhren, F Stapleton, N Whiteside, A Graham.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: R Clemence; G O'Reilly, D Thomas, G Roberts, G Stevens, S Perryman, A Galvin, A Brazil, M Falco, G Hoddle, A Dick.
Referee: A Saunders (Newcastle).

A Christmas bargain in store at Carrow Road

By Vince Wright

Norwich City versus Coventry City is not usually a fixture to quicken the pulse but this afternoon's match provides an ideal excuse to forgo Christmas shopping. With Manchester United having played Tottenham Hotspur last night, Carrow Road becomes the unlikely venue for the match of the day. Two of the first division's unfashionable clubs are not only confounding informed opinion by their high placings but have done so through skilful, adventurous football.

Norwich and Coventry are managed by men who prefer to let their players do the talking. Ken Brown and Bobby Gould are enhancing their reputations by the week but they are reluctant, almost embarrassed, by the praise which has rightly come their way. The success of Brown and Gould is another reminder that one does not have to be an exceptional footballer to become a good manager.

No less a team than Liverpool can bear out Coventry's remarkable transformation. Joe Fagan's men suffered one of their rare, heavy defeats at Highfield Road last week, a result which moved Coventry up to fourth. They will need to show similar form today if they are to continue their climb because Norwich, are trying to equal a club record of seven successive victories. Devine, now a more attractive player than he was with Arsenal, will probably be recalled be to Norwich's midfield if he passes a fitness test on a hamstring injury. Clayton, aged 19, is also included in a squad of 13. Coventry, not surprisingly are unchanged.

Liverpool's home match against Notts County is more interesting than it might appear. Liverpool's greatest strength has been their ability to bounce back after a defeat and that will be put to the test against a County side which thrashed Sunderland 6-1 last week. Over the years County have made a habit of beating the best and losing to the worst and it is not beyond them to spring a surprise today.

The match at Anfield will be a homecoming for the former Liverpool defender, Larry Lloyd, who is now in charge of County. County expect to be unchanged but Liverpool play Johnston instead of Whelan in midfield. Johnston asked for a transfer when dropped a week ago and another unsettled player, Hodgson, is chosen as a substitute.

West Ham United are waiting to pounce should Liverpool fail but first they have to improve on an appaling record at Nottingham Forest's City Ground. West Ham have lost more times at Forest than on any other groud and indeed have failed to score there since 1969 when Geoff Hurst was on target. The midfield player, Pike, is the only doubt from the side which beat Arsenal and Forest are unchanged despite a dressing down from their manager, Brian Clough After last week's defeat at Watford.

The last named has been linked with Arsenal who make a late selection from 14 for their game against Watford at Highbury. O'Leary is almost certain to return to the defence after missing two matches with a leg injury and there may be places for Sunderland, Cork and O'Shea.

Two clubs in even worse straits than Arsenal are Wolverhampton Wanderers, who are bottom, and Stoke City, bottom but one, and they meet at Molineux. Burridge, Palmer, Daniel and Eves could be recalled by Wolves, although they are all available for transfer. For Stoke, Thomas, James and McIlroy have reported fit from international duty and Dyson and O'Callaghan are added to the team that lost 4-2 at home to Luton Town.

Halifax in need of home games

The manager of one of the worst supported clubs in the Football League has called for a revision of the fixture formula. Mickey Bullock, of Halifax Town, said that games shoud be on a strictly home and away sequence. Halifax played their last home match on November 25 and their next is not until Boxing Day. "Without limited finacial resources it makes life very difficult," Bullock said.

● Doncaster Rovers, have signed the Southen defender Steve Yates for £7,500.

Test for Knox is to stop Rangers setting record

By Hugh Taylor

A young man in a hurry, Archie Knox, the new manager of Dundee, is presented with an unusual challenge as he takes charge of the club for the fist time today.

At Ibrox he will be trying to stop the revitalized Rangers from gaining a result of special significance, a victory that will enable Jock Wallace to record his fourth league win in succession, something which has not happened in the club's history since 1979.

Whether this has been due to the competitiveness of the premier division or the shortcomings of Rangers does not concern the bluff manager, who growls: "I don't look back. The fact is, we've had three wins in a row. We are beginning to play the way I want us to play and we are going all out for a fourth victory today." Commitment is Wallace's gospel and Rangers have shown their traditional spirit since the new broom arrived.

Today, Dundee supporters will be hoping that Knox can inject the same zest into a flagging team, that he can bring to Dens Park some of the essence of the iron tonic which has turned Aberdeen, where he had been assistant manager for almost four years, into the most sparkling, dedicated team in Scotland this season.

Knox does not inted to hang about. He seeks early success. Indeed, he arrived at the press conference organized to announce his appointment in succession to Donald Mackay carrying a bag containing his training gear and could hardly wait to put his players through a vigorous practice match.

Wallace: going all out.

Dundee so far, have once a supporter of his new club before becoming a player with, among others their gratest rivals Dundee United, can prove an outstanding leader. But Rangers are so much more confident nowdays that it is difficult to visualize them dropping a point this afternoon, even though they will be without the suspended McAdam and Redford.

Celtic also have three players out of action for their visit to play Hearts at Tynecastle and the new signing from Stirling Albion, John Colquhoun, may come into contention for a place in the team.

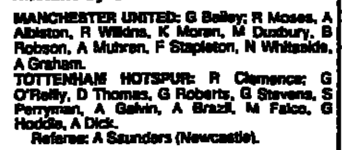
FA and players in talks

The Football Association and the Professional Footballers Association will meet in London next Tuesday to try to solve the financial dispute which is threatening the Liverpool versus Newcastle United FA Cup third round tie on January 6, which is due to be televised by the BBC.

The FA have offered the PFA £40,000 this season as their share of television fees instead of the usual £100,000. The Players' Association secretary, Gordon Taylor, has warned that he will order the Liverpool and Newcastle players to refuse to play before the cameras if a better offer is not forthcoming.

Ted Croker, the FA secretary, said last night that the reduced offer reflected the contrasting financial positions of the FA and the PFA. He said that resources had been stretched. They had to make an additional £1,180,000 payment over the next five years to Wembley Stadium towards a £4m refurbishment scheme.

Croker claimed that PFA finances were in a "very satisfactory state". Last year almost £300,000 was available for transfer to PFA reserves.



Inter fined by UEFA for missiles

Zurich (Reuter) – The European Football Union (UEFA) have fined Inter Milan an total of £8,500 after incidents at two of their Uefa Cup matches.

On Thursday Uefa's disciplinary committee dropped an inquiry into a charge that an attempt had been made on behalf of Inter to bribe the Dutch side, Groningen, to lose a Uefa Cup second round, second leg match. Uefa said Groningen had provided insufficient proof to support their allegation.

The same committee announced yesterday a fine of £6,800 for the throwing of a smoke bomb and other missiles after the third round match against Austria Vienna in Milan on December 9. The match ended in a 1-1 draw, but the Austrian club went through to the quarter-finals on a 3-2 aggregate.

Inter were also fined £1,700 for other incidents arising at the match with Groningen

Share issue raises only £62,500

Birmingham City, weighed down by debts of £1.85m at the end of last year's account, have raised only £62,500 from a new £400,000 share issue. Keith Coombes, the chairman, said at yesterday's annual meeting that administrative costs would take away £20,000 and therefore the club could not be as generous as they would have liked in backing Ron Saunders, the manager, in the transfer market.

"As the offer was not fully subscribed, anyone who bought shares is entitled to have their money returned," Mr Coombes said. "But my feeling is that the vast majority will want to keep their money in the club."

The resignation of Richard Burman, the club's financial director, was partly blamed for the lack of big money invested before the share issue closed on Thursday. Mr Burman had questioned whether the club should continue to trade because of a deficiency of £606,000 between assets and liabilities.

Saunders, who said that he had been quoted £300,000 and £200,000 for two players he wants, told shareholders of the massive economies forced on the club. He said: "In the last 12 months I have become a very efficient cost accountant."

●Darlington Football Club may be evicted from their Feethams ground. The club's 21-year lease expires on December 31 and as yet they have reached no new agreement on a rent increase with Darlington Cricket Club, the landlord. The original rent of £400 a year, agreed in 1962, is being increased to £3,000 a year, a rent which the football club say they can not afford.

Why the Americans found that ex-Football League managers are best

Disneyland saved by the British

From all over the world they came in the late 1970s, footballers lured by reports of the fabulous wealth to be made in their own special Disneyland – the North American Soccer League (NASL).

The legendary skills of Pelé, Beckenbauer and Best were bought, with back-up from four different continents. From renowned internationals to old crocks, the players ran the gamut of nationality and ability.

But it was a different story with the coaches. The transatlantic traffic in ex-English managers left little room for anyone else.

By 1977, 15 of the 24 clubs had a British manager. The names included Noel Cantwell (ex-Manchester United player and Coventry City manager), Eddie McCreadie (former Chelsea player and manager), Jimmy Gabriel (ex-Everton and Southampton player) and Freddie Goodwin (ex-Birmingham and Brighton manager).

The English dominance continued until the start of this year when Americans decided to take over their own game. The former Welsh international, Phil Woosnam, who had been commissioner of the NASL since 1971, was forced to resign and even such a successful manager as Alan Hinton – who had steered Seattle Sounders to their first Soccer Bowl in 1982 – was fired.

The result was a fiasco: the NASL was on the brink of collapse, being forced to shrink from 12 clubs to nine, and the United States national team – Team America – was disbanded after only five months.

In desperation, owners of NASL clubs turned back to the English connexion. Eddie Firmani, the former Charlton Athletic manager, was reappointed to New York Cosmos in November (having been sacked by the club in 1979). And that flamboyant maverick of English football, Rodney Marsh, has taken charge of Tampa Bay Rowdies after the resignation of Al Miller, an American coach who had been installed – with disastrous results – in place of the former Queen's Park Rangers anager, Gordon Jago.

There are now seven graduates of the Football League at the nine NASC clubs – evidence perhaps that the old accusations of an English mafia were exaggerated. Certainly manages like Ron Newman, of the San Diego Socker, and Bob Houghton, at Toronto Bizzard, have proved to be models of consisitency and loyalty. They are where they are on merit.

Of those who lost their jobs under this year's great "Americanization" programme, not all have resurfaced as managers. Alan Hinton is now a successful players' agent, showing little sign of missing his $100,000-a-year job with Seattle Sounders. His former club, however, missed him. They are now bankrupt.

"I feel very comfortable now," Hinton says. "I miss the competition and the players, but I don't miss the finger-pointing, the back-stabbing and the attitude of survival at all costs. I've got my four-bedroomed house, my Audi and my daughter's horse. To me, this is still the land of opportunity."

But former managers of Football League clubs are still in the news and not always in the best possible way. John Giles (ex-West Bromwich Albion), coach of the Vancouver Whitecaps for the past three years, was asked to resign by the club's owner, Bob Carter, on Sunday. Mr Carter alleged that Giles had been involved in "a conflict of interests" when the club signed Pierce O'Leary from Shamrock Rovers in 1980.

Mr Carter said that Giles, former part-owner and coach of Shamrock, had received 20 per cent of the transfer fee – reportedly between £350,000 and £500,000 dollars which he "neglected to tell anyone about". Giles is now considering offers to return to coach in the first division or Saudi Arabia.

Another of this year's casualties is Terry Hennessey who steered unfashionable Tulsa Roughnecks to a surprise Soccer Bowl win in October. He resigned in November after a radio appeal had raised $65,000 in twelve hours to save the club from extinction.

Hennessy, however, is not disillusioned. "In my opinion the USA will be a force in world soccer one day and when that day comes I think English managers can look back with pride on what they have done for the game over here," he said.

Terry Hennessey will probably miss that day. He is going to coach in Australia.

Sue Mott

EQUESTRIANISM



Progress barred: David Bowen parts company with Don Quixote in the fault and out competiton. Photograph: Ian Stewart.

Skelton takes Everest stable to second Olympia summit

By Jenny MacArthur

The powerful Everest stable gained their second victory in two days when Nick Skelton took first place on the Swedish-bred Everest Carat in the Cognac Courvoisier fault and out at yesterday's Olympia international show jumping championships. The previous night Liz Edgar had won the main competition, riding Everest Forever.

In yesterday's class Harvey Smith set the time to beat with a clear round in 49.23sec on the Dutch-bred Sanyo Galexi. Malcolm Pyrah knocked nearly a second off this time riding Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl. The grey mare showd how athletic she is when she cleared fence nine, an upright, although she had approached it wrongly and had to adjust her stride at the last second.

Pyrah's glory was shortlived. Skelton, going near the end, produced a finely judged round to finish in 48.02sec. Pyrah was relagated to second place, with the Swiss rider, Willie Melliger, finishing third on The Crack.

Paul Sutton, aged 18, from Cheshire, added another laurel to his crown when he won the Vauxhall Opel Bedford young show jumper of the year event riding Miss Tina Rose's nine-year-old, Diamond T. He beat Michele Lewis, 20, the 1981 young riders national champion, by .4 of a second. Sutton also finished third on his father's Miss Millicent, who was jumping for the first time since injuring her shoulder a fortnight ago.

In October Sutton won the Whitbread young riders championship at the Horse of the Year Show, also on Diamond T. Unlike that class, yesterday's event was of a high standard, and eight out of the 20 starters went clear. "It was a nice, straight-forward course," was Sutton's verdict.

This young rider, the 1982 leading junior, spent six months last year at Stephen Hadley's yard in Warwickshire and six weeks with Lars Sederholm in Oxfordshire. The experience he gained at those two establishments is reflected in the successful transition he has made from junior to young rider classes.

Mrs Edgar's victory in the Norwich Union Turkey Stakes on Thursday night showed once again that as a stylist she is without peer. Riding the German-bred Everest Forever, she achieved a round of sheer perfection in the 12-horse jump-off.

Taking such a short route around the six fences tha they never appeared to be hurrying, they clipped half a second off the time of John Whitaker and Ryan's Son, this year's biggest money-winner, who finished second. Lesley McNaught, who left the Edgars' Warwickshire yard earlier this year, rode with characteristic determination to finish third on Skim Milk Supplies' Barbarella. David Broome on Last Resort put up a fine challenge and was up on his sister's time, but unluckily hit the middle part of the final combination.

COGNAC COURVOISIER FAULT AND OUT: 1, Everest Carat (N Skelton) 0 faults, 48.02 sec; 2, Sea Pearl (M Pyrah), 0, 48.54; 3, The Crack (W Melliger, Switz), 0, 49.12.
VAUXHALL OPEL BEDFORD YOUNG SHOW JUMPER AWARD: 1, Diamond T (P Sutton), 0, 23.43; 2, Antigua (M Lewis), 0, 23.83; 3, Miss Millicent (P Sutton), 0, 25.03.
NORWICH UNION TURKEY STAKES: 1, Everest Forever (E Edgar), 0, 29.16; 2, Ryan's Son (J Whitaker), 0, 29.65; 3, Barbarella (L McNaught), 0, 30.16.

ATHLETICS

Long runs stop short for women

By Pat Butcher

The women's distance running lobby looks as if it has been blocked. A council meeting of the International Amateur Athletic Federation in Manila has rebuffed attempts by a group, including Grete Waitz and Mary Decker, to have the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres events added to the women's programme for the Olympics.

Earlier this year, the International Women's Running Committee filed an action against the International Olympic Committee and the IAAF in Los Angeles, the city where next year's Olympic Games are to be held. But Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, said in Manila yesterday: "The courts can't force us – or 172 nations in the federation. If they do, pretty soon they'll be telling us when to wake up."

That is perhaps a dangerous comment to make for the president of an assiciation noted in the past for a certain somnolence. But, given the size of the federation, the biggest of its kind in the workd, it has been moveing fairly rapidly to democratize itself even though the movement could be characterized as a fierce rearguard action against commercial interests who threatened to take over athletics.

Dr Nebiolo's comments were made yesterday on the first day of the three-day council meeting. It was in tandem with the announcement that there will be a track 10,000 metres for women at the World Cup in Canberra in 1985 and at the next world championships in Rome in 1987.

The 3,000 metres track race for women was only added to the Olympics in 1980 but one of the first events on the Olympic programme next year will be the women's marathon, which follows the successful inclusion of the distance race in the European championships in Athens in 1982 and the world championships in Helsinki.

SPORTS COUNCIL

Government's move to help combat drug abuse

By John Winder

The Government is to consider making the provision of Sports Council grants to sporting bodies conditional on their instituting tests against the use of drugs by sportsmen.

Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, said in a debate in the Commons yesterday that he would discuss with the Department of Health and Social Security the possibility of a change in the present regulations which allow the import of some "prescription only" drugs from abroad for the recipients' own use. He indicated that what he had in mind was a change to make such imports for authorized individuals only.

Mr Macfarlane said many drugs, including anabolic steroids, came into this category. He said: "My investigations suggest that we might be able to act in the United Kingdom to inhibit the activities of Mr Paul Townsend and others like him who ply their destructive trade".

The matter had been raised by Mr Colin Moynihan, Conservative MP for Lewisham East, who coxed the British rowing eight in 1978 and won a world gold medal with the British Olympic eight in 1980 and is also director of the British Boxing Board of Control.

He said there should be no reason for not publishing the names of those on whom drugs tests had been found to be positive. It was time to lift the shroud of secrecy covering tests. "Mr Paul Townsend earns a black market income from an address in France from which he sends out dangerous drugs, some of which have known side-effects."

A corporate will by a few people in certain powerful international bodies was required to stop the drugs abuse.

They should be concerned, not just with a handful of medal winners, but with hundreds of young people, who, if the sporting world did not act now, would think that drugs were the road to follow.

BADMINTON

English girls eliminated

Jakarta, (Reuter) – All four English girls within reach of the semi-finals of the Badminton Grand Prix tournament here last night were defeated.

Kirsten Larsen of Denmark beat Helen Troke 11-7, 11-4 to take her place in the semi-finals along with Chinese players Zhang Ailing, Li Lingwei and Han Aiping, who all beat English rivals.

Zhang beat Sally Podger 11-6, 11-5. Li cruised to an 11-7, 11-3 win over Karen Beckman and Han, who upset the world champion Li on Thursday, clinched group "B" with an 11-3, 6-11, 11-3 triumph over Jane Webster.

In the men's singles Steve Baddeley went the same way. The English players was beaten by Morten Frost. The tall dane, who had predicted an Indonesian triumph ensured his triumph in group "C" 15-11, 4-15, 15-6 to earn a semi-final with Misbun Sidek. The Malaysian completed a luckless week for the unfortunate Icuk Sugiarto of Indonesia.

The all-England champion Luan Jin of China completed the destruction of Indonesia's three-man team when he beat Liem Swie King to reach the last four.

MEN'S SINGLES: Group B: P Padukone (India) bt S Kukasemkij (Thai) 15-3, 18-17. Group C: M Frost (Den) bt S Baddeley (GB) 15-11, 4-15, 15-6. Group D: M Sidek (Mal) bt I Sugiarto (Indonesia) 10-15, 15-9, 15-6; Luan Jin (China) bt Liem Swie King (Indonesia) 15-13, 15-8.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Group A: K Larsen (Den) bt H Troke (GB) 11-7, 11-4; Zhang Ailing (China) bt S Podger (GB) 11-6, 11-5. Group B: Li Lingwei (China) bt K Beckman (GB) 11-7, 11-3; Han Aiping (China) bt J Webster (GB) 11-3, 6-11, 11-3.

IN BRIEF

Wales could be banned from the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, as concern grows among African nations over continued Welsh rugby links with South Africa.

The Ghanaian Government are expected to approach the Commonwealth Games Federation in the next few weeks, saying that unless Wales are excluded there may be a boycott of the Games. Other countries, including Nigeria and Tanzania, seem certain to back Ghana. A South African youth rugby team have arrived in Wales of a tour.

SNOOKER: Jimmy White and Tony Knowles won two frames to level their Hofmeister world doubles semi-final round match against Cliff Thorburn and John Virgo 4-4 by the interval at Northampton. White and Knowles had defeated Terry Griffiths and Doug Mountjoy in the quarter-finals on Thursday night.

BOXING: Herol Graham (Britain) will defend his European light-middleweight title against Said Skduma, the French champion, in Paris on January 16.

TENNIS: John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova have been named the top male and female professionals by Tennis magazine.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final, second series: Barcelona 81, Banco Roma 74; Bosna Sarajevo 88, Colombani Cantu (It) 84; Maccabi Tel Aviv 95, Limoges 104.
KORAC CUP: Quarter-final group: Olympique Antibes 77, Rayer Venice 71.
RONCHETTI CUP: Quarter-final group: SSB Roma (It) 62, Sparta Prague 53.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Chicago Bulls 113, New York Knicks 107; Utah Jazz 138, Houston Rockets 111; Phoenix Suns 114, Los Angeles Lakers 104; Portland Trail Blazers 118, New Jersey Nets 105; Golden State Warriors 119, Kansas City Kings 116.

HANDBALL

KATOWICE, Poland: Women's World Championships: East Germany 20, Poland 19; Romania 24, West Germany 20; Czechoslovakia 28, Bulgaria 26. Final positions: 1, East Germany, 2, Poland, 3, Romania, 4, West Germany, 5, Czechoslovakia, 6, Bulgaria. East Germany qualify for Olympic Games.

ICE HOCKEY

CINCINNATI: International: US 4, USSR 4.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Bruins 4, Hartford Whalers 2; Montreal Canadiens 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 1; Philadelphia Phillies 9, Washington Capitals 4; New York Islanders 4, Detroit Red Wings 2.

SQUASH RACKETS

LONDONDERRY CUP: Third round: Barnard Castle 5, Wrekin 0.

NORDIC SKIING

RAMSAU, Austria: World Cup cross country race (18.6 miles): 1, G Svan (Swe), 1hr 24min 9.5sec; 2, O Aunli (Nor), 1:24.53.7; 3, J Ottosson (Swe), 1:25.12.9. British placings: 87, J Spotswood, 1:35.34; 89, A Rawlin, 1:37.54; 92, M Watkins 1.39.30; 94, M Dixon 1:39.43. Leaders after two events: 1, Svan, 43 pts; 2, Aunli, 38; 3, H Kirvesniemi (Fin) 37; 4, J Behle (WG) 27; 5, N Simjatow, (USSR) 26.

TENNIS

NORTH MIAMI BEACH, Florida: Invitation tournament: I Lendl (Cz) bt B Teacher 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; J Clerc (Arg) bt S Mayer (US) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4; R Taroczy (Hun) bt S Glickstein (Isr) 6-3, 6-3; G Mayer (US) bt B Walts (US) 6-2, 6-2.
PLANTATION, California: Junior Championships: Quarter-finals: West Germany bt France, 3-0 United States bt Britain, 2-1, P Moore (GB) bt P McEnroe (US) 6-2, 6-1; R Reneberg (US) bt R Whichello (GB) 6-1, 6-2; McEnroe/Reneberg bt Moore/Whichello 7-5, 6-2.
HONGKONG, Classic: Final: M Navratilova (US) bt P Shriver (US) bt P Shriver (US) 7-6, 6-3. Third place: K Jordan (US) bt K Horvath (US) 6-0, 7-6.
TARPON SPRINGS, Florida: Quarter-finals: USSR bt Great Britain, 2-1. R Einy (GB) bt L Savchenko (USSR) 6-1, 6-0; N Reva (USSR) bt S Sullivan (GB) 6-4, 5-7, 6-2; Reva/Savchenko bt Einy/Sullivan 6-1, 6-0. Yugoslavia bt Italy, 2-1; US bt West Germany, 2-0.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: (Perth): Queensland 295 for 9, (A R Border 90) v Western Australia. (Newcastle): New South Wales 245 (P Sleep 4 for 86); South Australia 27 for 2.

FOOTBALL

AGENTINE LEAGUE: Estudiantes 0, Newell's Old Boys 2; Argentinos Juniors 2, Independiente 2; Nueva Chicago 3, Racing Cordoba 1; Temperley 0, San Lorenzo 0; Velez Sarsfield 1, Instituto Cordoba 2; Talleres Cordoba 2, Huracan 0; Racing 2, Union Santa Fe 2; Rosario Central 1, Ferrocarril Oeste 0; Platense 2, Boca Juniors 1.

SKIING: Cindy Nelson, a veteran Olympic medal winner, should be fit to participate in the winter Olympic Games at Sarajeve in February, despite injuring a knee this week.

RACING: CHAMPION TRAINER FANCIED TO TAKE TODAY'S TWO MAIN RACES

The Mighty Mac can stay ahead

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With Bregawn and Badsworth Boy both falling and Ashley House running indifferently things did not go according to plan for Michael Dickinson at Haydock Park earlier this week. However, the champion trainer has a knack of bouncing back and I expect him to do precisely that this afternoon by winning the day's two most valuable events at Ascot and Doncaster with The Mighty Mac (1.20) and Fearless Imp (2.00).

Dickinson knows what is required to win the SGB Steeplechase at Ascot, having done so 12 months ago with Captain John. However, the two are entirely different. Whereas Captain John had already shown himself to be an out-and-out stayer before his SGB success, the Might Mac has excelled only over shorter distances. So, his ability to stay three milers at this level has to be taken on trust, although it is only fair to point out that he was placed over the distance much earlier in his career.

Neither Dickinson nor the horse's rider, Dermot Browne, are certain that he will last. "You never know until you try", was the slightly evasive reply to the question earlier this week. Yet I sense that they both think The Mighty Mac will stay now that he has made life easier for himself by learning to relax. In the circumstances no one should be surprised if he leads from start to finish.

The presence of Gaye Chance, Canny Danny and Sailor's Return in the field has ensured that The Might Mac's stamina will be put under the microscope. Nevertheless, I feel that the top weight has the class to overcome the opposition on this ground just as Brown Chamberlin did in the Nennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury three weeks ago and Fifty Dollars More did in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup at Cheltenham last Saturday.

The going at Ascot is still fast for steeplechasers. This will suit The Mighty Mac who has shattered two course records already this season. It may not suit the others, who are rather dour types. Furthermore, Canny Danny, who won the Sun Alliance Steeplechase at Cheltenham last March, has not run this season.

There is plenty more to excite at Ascot besides the big race, beginning with the Killiney Novices Steeplechase. David Nicholson is runing Captain Dynamo in this race instead of Gambir because he does not want to subject the promising Gambir to a test over two and a half miles so early in his steeplechasing career.

Recently, Captain Dynamo finished second to Linawn at Cheltenham. Today he will be meeting the same horse on worse terms. In the circumstances, it is hard to oppose Linawn, who jumped with such aplomb on that occasion and did not look like stopping either.

Later in the day it is more than just possible that the VAT Watkins Hurdle, which was run over this course midway last month holds the key to the outcome of both the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle and the Long Walk Hurdle.

On that occasion Permabos and Mayotte were breathing down the necks of Dawn Run and Amarach at the end. With only 10st 8lb to carry now Permabos will never have a better chance of beating the likes of Robin Wonder, Sula Bula, Very Promising and Admirals Cup because the conditions of today's race really are tailor made to suit him.

Twelve months ago, Mayotte won the Long Walk Hurdle and with only 10st 6lb to carry this dour stayer must have a great chance of winning it again, bearing in mind the fact that he finished directly in front of both Goldspun and Crimson Embers in the Waterford Crystal Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham last March. In this instance she is meeting them both on better terms.

Meanwhile at Doncaster, Fearless Imp can help to compensate not just Dickinson but Graham Bradley for Bregawn's mishap by winning the valuable Sheila's Cottage Steeplechase at the expense of Sea Merchant. Their race is sandwiched between two exciting races for beginners which should keep everyone on their toes.


Nicky Henderson: trainer of Linawn (12.15 Ascot).

After a good run, luck finally deserted Noddy's Ryde at Newcastle a fortnight ago when he slipped up on landing over the second last fence and all but fell. At the time he was right there with a chance of beating Lettoch. So, it seems only wise to give him the chance to atone in the Freebooter Novices Steeplechase, especially as he has already beaten Monaz at Cheltenham.

Earlier in the season Lettoch and Forgive 'N' Forget treated everyone at Stratford to a spectacle when they fought out a marvellous finish. Now, in light of Lettoch's subsequent achievement it will be disappointing if Forgive 'N' Forget fails to win the Embassy Premier Steeplechase Qualifier

Three winners for Francome

John Francome completing his half century of winners for the season with a treble on Vendeyar, End of Era and Star of Ireland at Fakeham yesterday. The champion jockey showed why the leader in the race for this season's crown, John O'Neill, his cause for concern with yet another polished performance, rounded off in brilliant style on Star of Ireland (11-4) in the West Norfolk Novices Hurdle.

Alan Jarvis's promising recruit won on the bit by five lengths from the 5-2 joint favourite, Saratino. Francome said: "He will be suited by a more galloping track where you can switch him off and then use his speed."

Dickinson serves warning

Michael Dickinson, the record-breaking National Hunt trainer, will be making another powerful challenge at the Boxing Day meetings, and will be aiming to beat his tally of 12 winners in a day with fewer runners, his mother, Monica, revealed at Doncaster yesterday. The Harewood trainer, who will be going to see his runners at Ascot today, sent two runners to Town Moor and had mixed luck. W Six Times won, but Hopeful Saint fell at the third. Both were ridden by Robert Earnshaw.

W Six Times made all the running to win the Red Alligator Handicap Chase, just beating the penalized Lodge's Fortune by a length. Earnshaw, riding a brilliant race on the winner, staged a remarkable recovery, after W Six Times made a mistake three out.

Bally-Go, another winner for the in-form jockey, Phil Tuck, took the lead going to the last to beat Premier Charlie by two lengths in the Merryman II Novices' Chase. Hopeful Saint, the 2-1 on favourite, was disputing the lead with Premier Charlie when he fell.

Patrick's Fair, who must be held up in his races, was ridden to perfection by Chris Seward, head lad to the Pontypridd trainer, Derek Haydn Jones, when he snatched a neck victory in the Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle.

"I have 42 flat horses and seven jumpers, and that is my second winner this season", Haydn Jones said. "I was planning to run Patrick's Fair in the Schweppes this year, but the race was abandoned and his main target this season will be another tilt at that race."

Dennis Coakley was tipped by Gordon Richards as a man to follow in the footsteps of Ron Barry after he steered Jennie Pat to victory in the Saucy Kit Novices Hurdle. Stage Coach was the early leader, but Jennie Pat took it up three out

Ascot

Going: good to firm

Tote Double: 1.20, 2.30. Treble: 12.50, 1.55, 3.0

(Television (BBC1): 12.50, 1.20, 1.55 and 2.30 races)

12.15 KILLINEY CHASE (novices: £5,535: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

101	p1-11b2	CAPTAIN DYNAMO (D) (H Plotnek) D Nicholson 7-11-8	P Scudamore
104	32012-1	LINAWN (Stype Wood Stud) N Henderson 6-11-1	S Smith Eccles
105	2116-21	ACES WILD (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 5-10-13	J Francome
106	00-2u1f	BEAU RANGER (White Bros 'Taunton' Ltd) J Thorne 5-10-13	P Nicholls
108	223234	BLACK ROD (A Baxter) N Mitchell 6-10-12	Mr S Sherwood

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620	00f-000	PAY FREEZE (Mrs C Watson) S May 7-10-8	G Watson 7
627	02/4000	OUI MONSIEUR (D) (G Deacon) J Bosley 9-10-7	M Bosley 7
630	212210	CITY LINK EXPRESS (D) (City Link Transport) D A Wilson 6-10-7	D Browne
632	0/ppp-p	CHEVINGTON (J South) J South 6-10-7	M Low 4
635	031000-	DERWENT KING (R Croft) Mrs J Croft 6-10-7	Mrs J Croft 7
636	u/f30-p	PLASH (D Lockyer) G Balding 7-10-7	—
639	3400-00	BEAU WYNK (D) (B Key) B Key 10-10-7	Miss D Key 7
640	00000-0	CAMEBELLE (Maj N Martin) N Mitchell 5-10-7	K Edmunds 7
643	uf-04	MONRO'S LASS (Dr C Studd) P Butler 7-10-7	C Studd 7
644	000010-	DOON SILVER (K Poulton) J Long 9-10-7	K Poulton 7

7-2 Hal's Joy, 4 Sanhedrin, 6 Rufus T Firefly, 8 City Link Express, Veleso, 10 Wild Geese, 12 Joe Sunlight, 14 Tugboat Canio, 16 Knowing Card, 20 others.

Ascot Selections

By Michael Phillips

12.15 Linawn. 12.50 Permabos. 1.20 The Mighty Mac. 1.55 Mayotte. 2.30 Far Bridge. 3.0 Rufus T Firefly.

Doncaster

Going: good to firm.

Tote: Double 1.30, 2.30. Treble 1.0, 2.0, 3.0

[Television (ITV) 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races]

12.30 GLASGOW PADDOCKS HURDLE (selling: £1,660: 2m 150yd) (23 runners)

1	0200	BISHOPS RIDE (B) W Musson 4-11-9	J Barlow
2	2	BLUEBIRDINO D W Chapman 4-11-9	G P Kelly
3	0000	DEMON KING A Smith 4-11-9	—

...

3	30-21	LAWNSWOOD MISS R Hollinshead 5-11-5 (8 ex)	[illegible]
5	22-01	GRINDERS (D) E Carter 5-11-4 (4 ex)	DOUBTFUL
8	1-324	CARPENTER'S WAY (D) Denys Smith 5-10-8	S Charlton
10	f/f4	BATTLEFIELD BAND (C) P Calver 6-10-6	R Lamb
11	0310	ANOTHER DEED (D) B Paling 7-10-5	C Evans 7
19	2012	SHOEMENDER F Watson 6-10-0	N Doughty

7-4 Lawnswood Miss, 4 No Bombs, 5 Carpenter's Way, 7 Battlefield Band, Another Deed, 10 Shoemender.

Doncaster selections

By Michael Phillips

12.30 Marjoram. 1.0 Kilroe's Calin. 1.30 Noddy's Ryde. 2.0 Fearless Imp. 2.30 Forgive N'Forget. 3.0 Lawnswood Miss.

Towcester

Going: good to firm.

12.15 MISTLETOE CHASE (Div I: novices: £1,238: 2m 5f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	12-41	BIG JAKE (C) A Turnell 7-11-7	E Waite
6	0/013	MULBERRY WALK P O'Connor 7-11-7	T Wall
9	0	ADEQUATE N Henderson 6-11-0	A Webber
14	p0f2/	BUSKRULLAGH T Bill 12-11-0	P Hobbs
16	p4p0-	CO MEMBER T Forster 7-11-0	H Davies
21	0043	EMPEROR NAPOLEON K Wingrove 6-11-0	M Bowlby 7

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Doncaster results

Going: Good to firm

12.30 LOTTERY CHASE (Selling: handicap: £1,257: 2m 150 yd)

VERY FRIENDLY b g by Be Friendly – Little Hexa (Dovilles Ltd) 7-10-0 T Wall (20-1) 1
Only Money N Doughty (8-4 Fav) 2
Secret Minstrel K Miner (20-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £31.90. Places: £8.30, £1.40 unbacked. DF: £86.60. CSF: £51.74. Tricast: £607.17. P Bevan at Uttoxeter. ½l, 10l. Bowshot (10-1) 4th. 8 ran. No bid. NR: Unsung, Viscount.

1.0 SAUCY KIT HURDLE (3-y-o: novices: £1,623: 2m 4f)

JENNIE PAT b f by Rymer – Cytisus (J Thompson Farms Ltd) 10-5 D Coakley (14-1) 1
Tom Sharp S J O'Neill (9-1) 2
The Shiner P Scudamore (9-4 Fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £18.00. Places: £3.40, £2.10, £1.40. DF: £240.20. CSF: £129.52. G Richards at Greystoke. Hd, 20l. Maid of Milan (12-1) 4th. 19 ran. NR: Orange Blossom.

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Girl (C Longstaff) 6-11-11 R Earnshaw (6-4 Fav) 1
Lodge's Fortune P Scudamore (5-2) 2
Magic Tipp D Dutton (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.20. Places: £1.80, £1.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £5.21. M Dickinson at Harewood. 1l, 20l. The Lady's Master (7-1) 4th. 5 ran. NR: Bold Agent, Virgin Soldier, Arctic Slogan.

2.0 SEA PIGEON HURDLE (handicap: £2,400: 2m 150yd)

PATRICK'S FAIR br g by Tudenham – Little Squaw (W Slater) 7-10-8 C Seward (12-1) 1
Cardinal Flower G Bradley (2-1 fav) 2
Mr Sunbird N Doughty (17-2) 3

TOTE: Win: £12.60. Places: £3.10, £1.30, £2.20. DF: £29.70. CSF: £32.90. Tricast: £199.66. D H Jones at Pontypridd. Nk, 4l. Rage Glen (13-2) 4th. 12 ran. NR: Johns Present, Mouhanned.

2.30 MERRYMAN CHASE (novices: £1,608: 3m 122yd)

BALLY-GO b g by Ballymoss – Cloudy (C Bell) 6-10-10 P Tuck (7-1) 1
Premier Charlie P Scudamore (6-1) 2
Northern Bay P Hobbs (20-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.30. Places: £1.70, £2.00. DF: £10.60. CSF: £39.81. M W Easterby at Sheriff

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3.0 DOORKNOCKER HURDLE (novices: £690: 3m 122yd)

ISAAC NEWTON b h by Alto Volante – Pomme (N Clark) 5-10-12 A Webber (15-8 fav) 1
Antiguan Moon D Dutton (16-1) 2
Wonder Wood P Richards (8-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £3.80. Places: £1.40, £3.10, £1.90. DF: £25.30. CSF: £31.99. R Armytage at East Ilsley. 2l, ½l. Charles Duke (8-1) 4th. 21 ran. NR: Beam of Light, Stories Gold, Goosey Gander. TOTE DOUBLE: £27.35. TREBLE: £43.40 paid on first two legs. PLACEPOT: £26.15.

Fakenham

Going: Good

12.45 COTTESMORE CHASE (novices: £874: 2m 3f 110yd)

DR PEPPER b g. by Old Soldier – Duchess Dara (Food Brokers Ltd) 6-10-8 J Leverdy (3-1 jt fav) 1
Lorlet S Smith Eccles (3-1 jt fav) 2
Lake Alive C Mann (18-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £4.00. Places: £1.10, £2.75

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1.15 FITZWILLIAM HURDLE (selling: handicap: £840: 2m 80yd)

MISS METRO b m, by Upper Case – [illegible] Soul (C Brewery) 6-11-0 H Davies
Laura's Pride J Francome
Narsinh S Smith Eccles

TOTE: Win: £5.10. Places: £2.40, £3.80. CSF: £11.15. C Drew at Potton. Palm The Ace (10-1) 4th. 7 ran. NR: Ho... Bid.

1.45 WAVENEY CHASE (handicap: £1,...

VENDEYAR br m, by Pardigras – Threes (Parker Dyeing & Finishing Consultants) 8-10-11 J Francome
Prince Carlton Miss C Saunders
Clan-Dy-Guy M Furlong

TOTE: Win: £1.60. Places: £1.70, ... £5.40. CSF: £8.08. Zelda's Fancy ... ran.

2.15 CARAVAN & CAMPING SITE ... handicap: £1,049: 2m 80yd)

END OF ERA b g Patch – High ...

HOCKEY

Great Britain hoping to throw Australians off stride again

From Sydney Friskin, Hongkong

Roger self, the team manager, summed up the 5-0 victory over China on Thursday as British Hockey's finest hour, a claim with which the surviving members of the 1948 (silver) and 1952 (bronze) medal winning Olympic teams might not be in full agreement. Be that as it may, the 1983 team set out to get the goals they needed to qualify for the semi-final round of the 10 Nations Tournament here and deserve credit for having done so.

The crisis comes today when they play Australia, whose triumphant march from Melbourne to Karachi, via Kuala Lumpur, has brought them three gold medals in a little under a year. In the light of Thursday's success, Self is unlikely to make changes, but he knows that Imran Sherwani has not fully recovered from his recent knee operation, and will probably think twice before picking him.

The last victory by a Great Britain team over Australia was achieved at Surbiton in 1967, when the score was 2-0. But the present British team are composed mainly of players from England, who have not given the Australians an easy time in recent years. A touring England team beat Australia 2-1 in the five-match series of 1981, and last year at Melbourne, where Australia won the gold medal in the 10 nations tournament, their only setback was a goalless draw against England. There is something about the Pommies that puts them off their stride.

Who among patrons of the hockey arts would not want to be here for the earlier semi-final between Pakistan, the world champions, and India, the Olympic champions? Pakistan, whose fortunes have dwindled since they retained the World Cup at Bombay in January, 1982, have settled down to smooth running, altough there are still some weaknesses.

India, who had a somewhat hazardous passage into the semi-final, sent an experimental side here after threatening to withdraw. But when they beat Japan 3-0 in their last group match they had found their touch. That old Indian magic could have the crowd under its spell.

China scored their first goal of the tournament when they took the lead against Hongkong yesterday, eventually to win 4-2 and finish ninth in the tournament. Malaysia and Canada will now play off for fifth and sixth places.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS: Classification matches: Fifth to eighth places: Canada 3, South Korea 2; Malaysia 3, Japan 2. For ninth place: China 4, Hongkong 2.

SQUASH RACKETS

Kenyon and Miss Opie win back titles

By Rex Bellamy

The finals of the British National Championships, sponsored by Just Juice, produced thrilling and highly skilled squash at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield. Both matches were admirable demonstrations of the game's techniques and tactics and – at this exalted level, anyway – its awful demands on the players' physical resources. At the same time, there was some embarrassment bacause the game's greatest flaw was again exposed by public scrutiny.

The continuity of both finals on Thursday night disrupted by the lets and penalty points that tend to arise from obstruction. This is usually an accidental consequence of a loose shot, or sluggish footwork, rather than any deliberate attempt to inhibit an opponent. But there are times, too, when players seek to gain an advantage from some borderline interpretation of the rules.

The point is that the disruption does happen. It damages professional squash as a spectacle and often leads to querulous asides that detract from the pleasure of playing the game or watching it.

All this was particularly regrettable because the finalists are by no means prime examples of the bad practices that arise from the obstruction rules. They are simply caught up in a system endemic in a game that plunges its participants into close proximity. The obstruction rules are essential and adequate. But their interpretation can be complicated and controversial.

Lisa Opie and Philip Kenyon, who regained the titles they first won in 1981, had contrasting matches. Miss Opie, who beat Martine le Moignan 10-9, 9-1, 9-4, needed six game balls, and survived three before she won the first game. After that, Miss Opie had the confidence to play a wide range of shots and was clearly the better player. Her agile and resolute retrieving was an important factor in frustrating Miss le Moignan's attempts to take charge.


Kenyon: made his fitness tell

When Miss Opie uttered an obscenity, without reprimand, an unemployed referee observed: "Yes, but she said it so nicely." More acceptably amusing was a comment made by a lady in the gallery when Gawain Briars had trouble getting his breath back after banging his prominent adam's apple in a collision with Kenyon. The spectator advised him: "Have it taken out, lad."

Briars took command, as Miss Opie had done, by combining a variety of shots with some astonishing retrieving. He had a match point in the fourth game but put a backhand drop in the tin after a long rally. Then, Briars made a few more mistakes and, in the fifth game, was too tired to resist a fitter man who was tidily merciless in exploiting the difference. Keynon won 5-9, 9-4, 1-9, 10-8, 9-1 in a hour and 43 minutes. His fitness could have been irrelevant but for the superb squash he played in winning the second game from 1-4 down.

Kenyon and Briars have contested three consecutive finals but must be worrying about Geoff Williams, who has moved into the same class and is still improving, and Hidayat Jahan, who did not compete this time but, even at the age of 34, could be a formidable opponent next year. Miss Opie, still only 20, shows signs of advancing clearly ahead of all domestic challengers if she maintains her present level of fitness.

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens need dramatic lift to block Widnes

By Keith Macklin

Unless St Helens lift their game dramatically against Widnes at Warrington this afternoon, the John Player Trophy final will see Widnes entering yet another major trophy event. Leeds are already through to the final at Wigan on January 14 and Widnes, despite their long injury list, are inevitably favourites to join them after this afternoon's semi-final.

Both sides have been plagued by injuries and Widnes will be without Adams, Basnett, Mike O'Neill and Hogan.

St Helens are hoping that Pinner, their skilful pack leader, and Peters, the utility back, will be fit. However, there is no place for the strong-running Haggerty, who has not recovered sufficiently from an injury sustained against Featherstone Rovers three weeks ago.

The Widnes manager, Vince Karalius, and the coach, Harry Dawson, have to chooe between two clever scrum halves, the international Gregory and his normal deputy Hulme. Dawson has indicated that if the going is firm Gregory will start the game. If it is heavy, Hulme will start. John Myler is at loose forward with Gorley, Whitfield and Prescott competing for two vacant places in the pack. On recent form and history, I select Widnes to qualify to meet Leeds.

Fulham, despite their abysmal away record, have been equipped to take on the best at Craven Cottage, and they will give Bradford Northern, the League leaders, a run for their money tomorrow.

Wigan have signed another Australian, Wayne Elvin, a utility player from a Sydney Junior Club, Campbelltown. He is in the squad for Wigan's important home game with Hull tomorrow. Oldham keep the team which should have played in the postponed Featherstone game last Sunday for the visit to Wakefield Trinity. The home side are hoping to give the Australian captain, Wally Lewis, his third run since his £12,000 signing from Australia.

● The takeover of Bramley, the struggling second division club, by a group of businessmen, was completed yesterday and the club will resume their fixtures tomorrow at Kent Invicta.

At a meeting in Leeds, the club – £12,000 in debt and out of action since October 16 – has officially wound up, and the new group are to form another company.

The Club's solicitor, Stephen Gale, said: "The deal will enable all the creditors to be paid and will ensure the continuation of Rugby League at Bramley."

The chairan, Ken Watson, said: "The club is starting with a clean sheet and all we need now is for the public to rally round and give their support."

IN BRIEF

Spain aims for Olympic double

Granada has unveiled plans to hold the 1992 winter Olympics following Barcelona's bid for the summer games to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

Granada was the seat of the Spanish Court when the Crown granted Christipher Columbus its patronage for his historic voyage.

The cost would total £120 million. Barcelona unveiled its plans to hold the 1992 summer Olympics earlier this week.

BASKETBALL: Two of Britain's leading basketball figures Tom Schneeman and Bob Hope, will talk to top British plyers in north America to see if they will be available for the European Olympic qualifying torunament in France

YACHTING: Andrea Mura and Paolo Brichetti, of Italy, took a 1.6-point lead over Jason Belben and Andrew Hemmings, of Britain, to bring the 470 Class title within their grasp at the world youth yachting championships in Auckland.

BOXING: Gordon Mancini, the World Boxing Association lightweight champion, will take on Bobby Chacon on January 14 in Reno, Nevada.

BOWLS: Bob Sutherland, the world indoor champion, will head a field of 32 players competing in the Regalgrene short mat championship in Stockport on January 22.

BOOK REVIEWS

The America's Cup resailed

Few people interested in sport could have failed to follow the efforts last summer of six nations trying to win the America's Cup. The series was well documented in the press and magazines, with many references to the 132 years' history of the cup. For those whose interest in that history was whetted and who want to know more, the perfect book has just been published.

The America's Cup 1851-1983 (Pelham, £15) is compiled by John Rousmaniere, an American yachting journalist, and covers every challenge since the trophy was first won. About a quarter of the book is devoted to the 1983 challenge, with chapters about each of the participating countries, the elimination series and the final seven races between Liberty and Australia II.

The national chapters, though necessarily brief, adequately document the events as seen through the eyes of nationals. The British effort, with its sometimes puzzling changes of direction, is described by Jonathan Eastland.

The furore caused by the keel of Australia II, together with the efforts of the Americans first to ban it and then copy it, is well documented. All this went on while the shape of the keel was still unknown. One of the last photographs in the book shows Australia II hauled out of the water after the final race, with her winged keel revealed for the first time.

It is the quality and profusion of its photographs that make the book such a worthwhile record. There are more of them than pages (200) and all covering the postwar era are in colour. Most of the earlier ones have been seen before, but when they are taken from the files of the best marine photographers such as Beken of Cowes, few will complain at once again being reminded of those magnificent J class yachts.

Perhaps the only omission, from a British point of view, is a reference to the dismissal of Phil Crebbin from the crew of Victory '83 during the elimination series of the 1983 challenge. Crebbin was the first of Peter de Savary's many sailors to be appointed and was a key figure throughout the three-year challenging period.

The results show that Victory '83 was soundly beaten by Australia II and it is improbable that any other helmsman and/or crew could have avoided that defeat. As the story of the America's Cup continues to unfold, so the role of the supporting players will diminish and eventually be forgotten.

The most commonly held belief about the 17 sailors preparing for the 1982-83 BOC single-handed race round the world was: "They must be mad". One might well have made the same comment afterwards, when only 10 completed the course and three of the boats were lost. In any case, why *race* round the world when there are so many interesting places to see on the way.

Barry Pickthall's book, *The Ultimate Challenge* (Orbis Publishing, £12.50), is a worthy attempt to find out why these 17 men were prepared to risk their lives and livelihoods on such an adventure. They were not mad, of course, just different. There were 17 different reasons for going (though only 16 competitors actually started) and Pickthall was well placed to record how many of their ambitions were realized.

He covered the race for this newspaper at its start and finish in Newport and at the three ports of call, Cape Town, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro, on the 27,000-mile course. He had access to the competitors' logs and some of the extracts describe better than any writer ever could the sheer misery of much of the voyage. Doubt, self-pity, anger and elation were all experienced, though naturally the emotions were often governed by the competitors' success in the race.

John Nicholls

RUGBY UNION

Selectors seek solution to a central problem

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The injury to Dodge, the *Leicester* centre, last weekend has added considerably to the interest of the Christmas club programme in England. His broken leg will prevent him from playing for a *minimum* of 10 weeks and this weekend the selectors are due to meet to discuss trial teams after pursuing their researches at Bath, Leicester and Coventry.

It is reasonable to assume that centres will be looked at with the most critical of eyes and, in that respect, it is unfortunate that Salmon, capped by New Zealand three times in 1981, has been forced by an ankle injury to drop out of the Harlequins side to play at Bath today. He would have provided Palmer, who was an England replacement throughout the 1980 grand slam season, with an admirable test.

Bath will be hoping to recover some equilibrium after the defeat last week against Gloucester, but they will be without their captain, Spurrell, who will be absent for six weeks after an operation on a knee. Cunningham, the hooker is playing for the Anglo-Scots and the obvious replacement for Spurrell, the much-travelled Jones, is also injured. Bath therefore move Hall to open-side flank and retain Turner, while Bess hooks. Harlequins, also defeated last weekend, by Bedford, restore Thompson to the centre.

Dodge's absence from Leicester's ranks may mean an extended run in the centre for Bates, a converted scrum half who has impressed on several previous occasions. He came on as a replacement during last season's John Player Cup final, the last occasion on which Leicester and Bristol met, when Bristol took the cup for the first time.

The match also gives the Bristol midfield of Barnes, Hogg and Knibbs the opportunity to assert their claims to representative consideration. Hogg has suffered because of his own adaptability, which has led him to variously at centre, stand-off and full back, but he and Knibbs are back together for the third successive game, and Barnes, after his activities with Oxford University and Gloucestershire, will be keen to do well against Cusworth.

Bristol introduce a new player, Woodman, on the left wing, where Carr is injured and Williams ill. Woodman has been scoring tries and kicking goals regularly for Bristol United after joining the club from the local Combination side, St Bernadette's. If he can keep an eye on Leicester's Evans he will be doing well.

Another university player, Simon Smith of Cambridge, hopes to be available for Wasps during the rest of the season. Smith, one of several talented young right wings in the country, is in his final year and, according to Wasps policy, is working his way up the sides, from the thirds last week to the seconds this week.

Promotion, therefore, has not come sufficiently quickly to allow him to play against Northampton at Sudbury today when Cardus and Kamara occupy the wing positions in a game which has had to be cancelled on the last three occasions because of the weather. Northampton come to London on the crest of a revival and hoping to provide Wasps with their first defeat of the season.

Another club still looking for their first defeat – are Orrell, who go to Wakefield, where they should maintain their splendid record. Wakefield, however, have more than a passing interest in England's central problems, since they have the young Yorkshire centre, Barley, as a live contender.

Concern over death of Poles

By Chris Thau

The mysterious and bizarre circumstances surrounding the deaths of two Polish players are puzzling officials of the Paris-based Fédération Internationale de Rugby Amateur (FIRA).

FIRA meet in emergency session today in Paris to discuss the Polish failure to fulfil their recent fixture against Italy in Padua.

Serious doubts are now being expressed about Poland's future participation in FIRA's 18-nation championship and the Italians were particularly upset as the Poles called off the match only days before it was due to take place and when all the preparations had been completed.

A strange story emerged when FIRA contacted the Polish Federation. The Poles said that they called off the game because of the accidental death of two key players. According to the chairman of FIRA's Technical Commission, Charles Durand, of France, the Polish Federation claimed that following the deaths the authorities refused to allow the team to travel to Italy. Their decision seemed less surprising when some details about the bizarre circumstances emerged.

According to a reliable source the first to die was one of the Polish props, Piasek. After the game against Romania in Bucharest, He was found dead in his bed the morning after the game. The Romanians wanted a post mortem examination performed but the Polish officials with the team declined and had the body sent to Warsaw.

The mystery has deepened with the death of a second, so far unnamed player in Poland several days later. While the first death, unfortunate as it was, could have been explained, the second one set up a pattern and made it difficult to be dismissed as a mere accident.

This chain of events raised a series of disturbing questions. Was it drugs? Or did at least one of the two Polish players suffer from a heart complaint? But then why was he allowed to play? It is widely known that players in Eastern Europe are not licensed to play unless they undergo a thorough medical check-up before the beginning of the season.

It is highly unlikely that these questions and many others will ever be answered. However, FIRA should demand a full explanation from the Poles and introduce as a matter of precaution regular anti-drug tests for the international games played under their jurisdiction.

FIRA's 18-nation championship, the largest Rugby competition anywhere in the world is split into three groups. The senior group of six countries is made up of France, Romania, Morocco, and the Soviet Union, Italy and Poland. The two winners of the second division group gain promotion to the top group.

A spokesman for FIRA said that according to the Federation's bylaws Poland have lost the Padua game by forfeit, although the Italians seem willing to play at a later date.

Top FIRA officials are worried since Poland have played only one game so far and their withdrawal could upset the remaining fixtures against France, Morocco and the Soviet Union.

FIRA is also running an under-19 international tournament with 14 countries but officials in Paris said that the problem of the Polish team in the senior group will not affect the plans for a junior competition scheduled to take place in Poland next year.

Busy time for Irish

By George Ace

The Irish selectors face a busy evening following today's final trial at Lansdowne Road. They will convene immediately after the game, when an Irish squad will be named for a training session on December 31 and will also select the Irish Rugby Union President's XV for the match against Ulster under floodlights at Ravenhill, Belfast, on January 4.

Rarely does an Irish trial make any great impression on the opinions already held by the selectors after the inter provincial series. A clear indication of their thinking is apparent in the composition of the Probables side, which includes all of last season's team who shared the five nations championshop with France, with the exception of tight head prop Gerry McLoughlin, who is still under suspension following an off-the-ball incident in a club game, and full back Hugo MacNeill who withdrew with a leg injury. McLoughlin's place goes to the Dungannon and Ulster player Jim McCoy.

At 17 stones and 6ft 1in McCoy combines solid scrumaging ability with considerable mobility in the loose.

Kearney, the Leinster flanker who has had an impressive inter-pro series for the champions Leinster, will challenge strongly for O'Driscoll's place.

PROBABLES: J Murphy (Greystones); T Ringland (Ballymena), D Irwin (Instonians), M Kiernan (Lansdowne), M Finn (Cork Constitution); O Campbell (Old Belvedere), R McGrath (Wanderers); P Orr (Old Wesley), C Fitzgerald (St Mary's, captain), J McCoy (Dungannon), J O'Driscoll (London Irish), D Lenihan (Cork Constitution), M Keane (Lansdowne), F Slattery (Blackrock), W Duggan (Blackrock)
POSSIBLES: R Palmer (Collegians); P Haycock (Terenure), B Mullin (Dublin University), R Moroney (Lansdowne), J McGeady (Lansdowne); T Ward (St Mary's) T Doyle (Greystones); J Langbroek (Blackrock), H Harbison (Bective Rangers), M Fitzpatrick (Lansdowne, captain), R Kearney (Wanderers), J Glennon (Skerries), B McCall (London Irish), D G McGrath (UCD), D Spring (Bagneres)
Referee: D Burnett (Leinster)

Win will ensure share of title for South

By Iain Mackenzie

South of Scotland, who have scored 59 points and conceded only two penalty goals so far in their attempt to retain the Scottish interdistrict championship, will ensure at least a share of the title if they beat Edinburgh at Myreside this afternoon. A win will give them six points from three games.

Glasgow, who have already beaten Edinburgh and the North & Midlands, would then be the only district with any chance of preventing the South from winning their twelfth title outright. They travel to Hawick on Christmas Eve and an unexpected victory there would give them the championship *outright for only the third time, or,* alternatively, a share of it, depending on the result at Myreside.

Had today's match been scheduled for the Borders, there would have been little doubt about the outcome – Edinburgh have never beaten the South outside the city. The country boys are never so comfortable within the capital, however, and have bewen well beaten there more than once. In the *corresponding fixture two years ago* at Murrayfield, Andy Irvine (Heriot's) and Jim Renwick (Hawick) shared *eight successful penalty kicks* in a 12-12 draw.

This afternoon Irvie will not be on duty, having damaged a shoulder at Hughenden last week, but *Renwick will be trying once again to* return to the Scotland side after a six-month lay-off following a leg *injury. Iain Milne is another Lion* who will not be there. He reported sick yesterday with influenza and his deputy Norrie Rowan of Boroughmuir, capped six times by Scotland, said he would prefer to play for his club.

The South will also be without one of the Lions. Jed-Forest's Roy Laidlaw was dropped this week in favour of 'Bobby' B Gordon Hunter (Selkirk) in a surprising decision.

*Laidlaw, incidentally, has with*drawn from his position on the bench but not, as has been suggested, because of any pique. *His* employer, always generous with time off when Laidlaw is chosen to play, asked him to work through the weekend on an urgent job.

The Anglo-Scots, who have disappointed this season by losing in England to both Edinburgh and the South, will be on the other side of the Firth of Forth today. They meet the North and Midlands at *Dunfermline and both sides have a* number of changes

The Iron Duke has a lot to answer

Why George Washington is sure to meet her Waterloo

The name George Washington staring out at me from an article about women's tennis is a reminder of the uneasy part played by popular history in sports journalism. *I have often* been picked up in the middle of reading a piece on some blameless pastime and deposited among the legs of the charging Light Brigade or at the bottom of a shell crater at Passchendaele.

The Duke of Wellington has much to answer for. Not only *did* he defeat Napoleon at Waterloo, but he is also supposed to have said that that battle was won on the playing fields of Eton. He described is as "a *damned nice thing* – the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life", which ever since, in newspaper accounts of a myriad sporting contests, has been garbled into "a close run thing".

Henry V exhorting his army before Agincourt is a convenient image for a captain motivating the lads in the dresing room, and Drake ignoring the Armada and stopping to finish his game of bowls will serve for any ice-cool English sportsman *in a crisis.* When "the Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead" in Newbolt's poem, a schoolboy rallies the ranks in the desert with his cry of "Play up! play up! and play the game!"

This is *all harmless enough.* Not so harmless, to anyone with a sense of the ridiculous, is the practice of dragging historical figures from the past into the present, *giving them front seats* at traditional sporting occasions, and speculating as to how they might react.

Thus we might read that "if *the Iron Duke*" (I said Wellington has a lot to answer for) "had been at Twickenham, he would have nodded in approval at the fighting spirit of England's *gallant forwards*", that "England's last-wicket pair defied Australia with a determination which would have gladdened Monty's heart", or that "had Colonel Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, been at Hickstead, he would have applauded the way *David Broome* handled a difficult horse during his clear round."

Marshals, generals, colonels – you cannot avoid the military on a *subject like this:* and, of course, sporting events can be seen, all too obviously, as battles. We have already had Passchendaele (Ivan Vodanovich, the *All Blacks coach,* made an inflammatory reference to it during the Lions tour of 1971), Waterloo and Agincourt, and to a certain type of imagination every Scottish victory is a Bannockburn and every Scottish *defeat* a Flodden. There are teams who meet their Waterloo, either in Belgium or at Blundellsands, and retreats from Moscow, when some football club or other lose in Russia, are frequent.

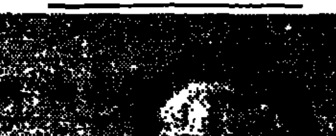
On a smaller scale are showdowns and shootouts, *deriving from the American* West, legend or fact as the case may be. High noon has passed into the vocabulary of sport and become a cliché. I myself *have used Jesse James and* Dodge City.

I have also used George Orwell, who said that sport is war minus the shooting – which *leads me to a final* and by no means irrelevant digression. Like generals and battles, authors are useful for leavening the lump of daily journalism. I know that quotations from them may be no more than proof of a retentive memory, but the trumpet-note of a different voice cutting through the journalese can reawaken the reader's interest.

In my time I can remember quoting a mixed bag of Shaw, Saki, Dylan Thomas, Wode*house, Cardus and Noel Cow*ard, but never Shakespeare. Elizabethan English is a dead language to me. So Henry V has never addressed any of my teams before the battle. *I fear he* might have confused them.

Gordon Allan

CROSS COUNTRY





Bayi: making tracks for the steeplechase at Los Angeles.

Africans run into a surprise at Ipswich

By Pat Butcher

David Moorcroft was in some *doubt yesterday about his chances* of contesting the International Athletes Club race in Ipswich this afternoon after a midweek stomach upset. But Kim Hutchings, the English champion, and Steve Harris, his England colleague, will face some formidable opposition from Gidamis Shahanga and Zachariah Barie, of Tanzania, in the 10-kilometre event. The Africans finished first and second in a five miles road race in Los Angeles last week, both beating 22min 30sec.

The arrived yesteday with Filbert Bayi, the former 1500 metres world record holder, and Sam Ngatia, of Kenya, believing that they had come to run in a road race, but the change to undulating parkland is not going to deter them much. Hutchings has resolved to "take the race from the front", so the Ipswich public, who are being offered this fixture on a permanent basis if they turn out in force, could be in for a spectacle.

Hutchings has the opportunity to convince the selectors that he should be nominated now for the world championship in New York next March, for he does not want to run the English national championship, which is normally the selection race, over nine miles only two weeks beforehand. Hutchings has looked *good this season,* winning at Gateshead and Paris, but he got left behind in a mass start in Nancy last Sunday *and although he finished* strongly could only get back to sixth place.

Hutchings and Harris, who won the Rank-Xerox 10 kilometre road race in Battersea two weeks ago, have the talent to get among the very best in the world at 5,000 metres. It was a shame that they, like Moorcroft, had to miss the first world championships in Helsinki last August. Moorcroft and Hutchings were injured and Harris ran the qualifying time too late.

There will be much interest in Bayi's performance. He is now studying in El Paso with his two Tanzanian colleagues. He is resolute from runner, and admitted yesterday that it is the only way he can run. It cost him the Olympic steeplechase gold medal in Moscow, when his fast early pace reduced *him to a crawl on the last lap* and he conceded victory to Malinowski, the ebullient Pole.

At, or near, his peak in 1974 he led the way and broke the world record in the process. It was a sublime performance which made a nonsense of the pacemaking used frequently beforehand, and used so glibly all the time nowadays. An Achilles tendon injury has kept Bayi out of top competition for the past two years but he refuses surgery and *is now back into full training* without mishap. He plans to run the steeplechase in the Olympics next year.

TENNIS

How to win the Cup

Sydney (Reuter) – Mike Bauer, one of two Americans to reach the last four of the New South Wales open tournament here, issued some strong advice to Australia yesterday *after beating Sweden's Anders* Jarryd in the quarter-finals. "Power, power and more power – that's what *you need to beat the Swedes, Bauer* said after defeating Jarryd, 6-7, 6-4, 6-0.

Jarryd was named yesrteday in the Swedish team for the Davis Cup final, which begins in Melbourne on December 26, alon with Mats Wilander, Hans Simonsson on Joachim Nystrom. Australia have selected Pat Cash, John Fitzgerald, Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson.

With Sweden the favourites to win the cup for only the second *time, Jarryd's defeat will at least* give the Australians hope. Bauer added: "I simply overpowered Jarryd. I basically blew him off the court with my serves and that's what the Australians have to do. They have to attack.

The seim-finals here will include an Australian versus Sweden match as Cash and Nystrom came through their matches yesterday to meet *each other. Baver plays Marty* Davis, his compatriot from the United States, in the other semi-*final.*

Cash defeated Lloyd Bourne, of the United States, 6-3, 6-1, Nystrom put out Robert Seguso, of the US, 6-4, 6-3. Nystrom's results here and in the Australian Open have increased his chances of replacing Jarryd in the second singles position alongside the Australian Open champion Mats Wilander.

QUARTER-FINALS (Australia unless stated): J Nystrom (Swe) bt R Seguso (US), 6-4, 6-3; P Cash bt L Bourne (US), 6-3, 6-1; M Bauer (US) bt A Jarryd (Swe), 6-7, 6-4, 6-0; M Davis bt B Dyke, 7-6, 7-5.

Masters field is completed

New York (AP) – Eliot Teleschcr and Johan Kriex, of the United *States, and Tomas Smid, of* Czechoslovakia, fill the remaining places in the field of 12 for the Volvo Masters championship at Madison Squaie Garden from January 10 to 15.

They join Mats Wilander, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Yannick Noah, Jimmy Arias, José Higueras, Andres Gomez and José-Luis Clerc in the play-off of the Volvo grand prix circuit, which could also determine who is chosen player of the year.

Vilas appeal verdict soon

New York (Reuter) – The Men's International Professional Tennis Council finished hearing an appeal by Guillermo Vilas, of Argentina, against a one-year suspension on *Thursday* and expect to reach a decision within a month.

Vilas was suspended and fined $20,000 in *June* when the council found that he received $60,000 from promoters to ensure his appearance ina Rotterdam tournament after some leading players dropped out. Vilas and his manager, Ion Tiriac, have denied asking for, or receiving, any such money.

SWIMMING

Moorhouse's challenge

From Athole Still, Ankara

The fourth Europa Cup, which begins here today, is likely to be dominated by the powerful East German women and the Soviet Union men who have won this 12-nation team event for the past three *years.*

In their quest for points, and in an attempt to provide a final flourish to the season, the Russians may select two of their world-ranked breast stroke swimmers to oppose Adrian Moorhouse of Britain. The 19-year old from Bradford goes in both 100 metres and 200 metres events and according to his coach Terry Dennison is "hungry for success" and has never been more determined. He is likely to face Dimitri Volkov in the 100 metres and the Olympic champion Robertas Zhulpa in the 200 metres.

Moorhouse, who is the European 200 metres champion has just broken David Wilkie's short course record for the distance and is in the condition and frame of mind to win both races.

Britain's other European championship medallist, 14-year old Sarah Hardcastle from Southend, also faces two stern races in the 800 and 400 *metres freestyle. She has* taken over the shorter distance to replace her Redbridge club colleague Jackie Wilmott, who has withdrawn on the advice of their coach Mike Higgs, *who thinks she is not in top* racing condition. Miss Hardcastle, however, is in splended form having *just taken five seconds from the* British 1,500 metres freestyle record. Following her splendid European bronze medal performance in Rome she is unlikely to be overawed by the girls from East Germany who are certain to win the cup for the fourth time. West Germany are in the strongest position to challenge the Russians in the men's competition. They have *just completed their short course* championships and are in peak condition with the world record *holder Michael Gross,* who set a new short course mark of 1 min 56.00 sec for 200 metres butterfly, *leading their attack.*

Although conditions in the pool *are far from perfect,* several world records are likely to fall as the European nations demonstrate their strength. The Americans will be watching the results with interest and no little trepidation. They have been bred on Olympic success and need little further confirmation of how hard it is going to be to keep the home crowd happy in Los Angeles.

CRICKET

Imran's return overshadowed by another Miandad century

Hobart (Reuter) – Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, made only 13 on his return from injury against Tasmania here yesterday but expects to play *in the fourth Test match* against Australia later this month. After being out of action for two months with a stress fracture of the left shin, Imran managed only one four in his comeback innings before he was caught by Richard Soule, *Tasmania's young wicketkeep*er, off the bowling off Peter Faulkner.

Imran had been hoping for a long spell at the wicket to prove his return to fitness and when he was out cheaply, he went straight to the nets for more batting practices. Despite Imran's failure, Pakistan compiled 354 for six on the first day of the four-day match, with Javed Maindad scoring 141 not out and Salim Makik 80.

Salim played a capable innings, scoring nine fours, but it was Miandad who once again provided the *sparkle in Pakis*tan's performance with his third successive century. Miandad, skipping between the wickets, repeatedly found gaps in the Tasmanian field

His century was brough up with a confidently-placed cover drive for four followed by two more fours in the next three balls. Batting without a helmet against a sometimes wild Tasmanian attack, Miandad pushed the score *along* at a good pace, his century coming in 183 minutes. In his previous two matches Miandad scored 106 against Victoria and 131 in the third Test at Adelaide.

Miandad was given a life at 27 when Ian Beven, at second slip, could only get one hand to an edge off Faulkner.

Tasmsania dropped three catches but behind the stumps Soule, *aged 17, took every* chanced offered. He comfortably held the catches which dismissed Salim and Imran but had to make two grabs from an awkward position to capture the wicket of Ashraf Ali.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Qasim Omar b Faulkner	21
Salim Malik c Soule b Clough	80
*Imran Khan c Soule b Faulkner	13
Wasim Raja l-b-w b Clough	0
Javed Miandad not out	141
Abdul Qadir b Faulkner	31
†Ashraf Ali c Soule b Faulkner	4
Rashid Khan not out	45
Extras (b 2, l-b 3, w 1, n-b 13)	19
Total (6 wkts)	354

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–90, 2–120, 3–120, 4–122, 5–195, 6–246.

BOWLING (to date): Clough 15–4–48–2; Blizzard 12–2–53–0; Williams 20–3–74–0; Faulkner 18–6–85–4; Saunders 1–0–19–0; Ray 4–0–17–0; Beven 6–0–29–0.

Indians need victory to appease irate fans

Gauhati (Reuter) – India go into today's fifth and final one-day international against West Indies here in an atmosphere of mounting tension. Without their captain, Kapil Dev, and the opener, Sunil Gavaskar, India are desperate to check a run of crushing defeats which has *left them trailing 4-0 in* the series.

They need victory to avoid a "*whitewash*" and *appease* their frustrated supporters, who pelted the side with fruit and attacked the *team bus after the innings and 46*-run defeat in the fifth Test match on Tuesday. West Indies also hold an unbeatable *3-0 lead* in that six-match series.

Security is already tight in his north-eastern city, the capital of troubled Assam State, where emotions still run high after February's ethnic clashes. More than 3,000 people died and 300,000 were made homeless in the riots.

Kapil Dev withdrew on Wednesday after complaining of soreness in his right knee, which was operated on three years ago. The wicketkeeper, Kirmani, will lead the side in his absence.

The West Indians, skippered by Clive Lloyd, will be equally keen to complete a 5-0 rout of India today and take full revenge for the surprise win the Indians scored over them in the one-day Prudential World Cup final at Lord's in June.

West Indies have yet to announce their side, but Lloyd is expected to lead an unchanged team from those *who beat India by 104 runs in the* fourth one-day international in Jamshedpur earlier this month.

India have included the young medium paced bowlers, Chetan Sharma and Raju Kulkarni, who could secure a place in the sixth and final Test, beginning in Madras on December 24, with a competent display today.

INDIA (from): S M H Kirmani (captain), G A Parker, D B Vengsarker, A D Malhotra, M Amarnath, R M H Binny, C Sharma, R J Shastri, R Kulkarni, S Khanker, Randhir Singh, K Srikkanth.

Rethink for a rebel

Johannesburg (Reuter) – Alvin Kallicharran, who said on Thursday that he would leave South Africa at the end of the strife-torn rebel tour, has changed his mind and will now stay on to play for Transvaal. His swift change of mind came after a meeting with Ali Bacher, who is in charge of the Transvaal side for whom Kallicharran has played for the past two seasons.

"I spoke to Dr Bacher and have decided to stay on until the end of the tour," Kallicharran told the *Rand Daily Mail* yesterday. "It was a personal reason which prompted me to decide to return home straight after the tour."

Bacher told the South African Press Association: "The whole thing is an unfortunate misunderstanding but I'm sure he will be available in February and March." Neither man would discuss the issues behind the dispute or say how it had been *patched up. The Rand Daily Mail* also said that Kallicharran was rethinking a decision to resign as vice-captain of *the* team.

The rebels, halfway through their tour, are unbeaten but the fire of their pace attack has been quenched by lifeless pitches and, off the field rows about sponsorship have caused ill feeling. To add to their problems, four of the 17-man squad are on the *injury list. Lynch has a hamstring* injury and Julien, Murray and Trotman have also been receiving treatment.

No price increase

Leicestershire are to keep membership subscriptions at the 1983 figure of £25 in the hope of attracting new recruits for the coming cricket season. Their Secretary-manager, Mike Turner, said: "We have fewer full-time members than any other county, but *there are a lot of people interested.*

Hampshire loss

Hampshire County Cricket *Club* lost £41,545 last season compared with a loss of £50,788 the previous year. Their secretary, Jimmy James, said: "We are looking into ways of cutting costs and saving money, but, like any business, we cannot expect to make losses for ever and continue *to survive.*"

Football and other fixtures

3.0 unless stated

First division

Arsenal v Watford
Aston Villa v Ipswich
Liverpool v Notts County
Norwich v Coventry
Notts Forest v West Ham
Q P Rangers v Everton
Southampton v Birmingham
Wolverhampton v Stoke

Second division

Blackburn v Crystal Palace
Brighton v Newcastle
Cambridge U v Manchester City
Carlisle v Barnsley
Chelsea v Grimsby
Derby v Shrewsbury
Huddersfield v Middlesbrough
Oldham v Fulham
Sheffield Wed v Cardiff
Swansea v Portsmouth

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Liverpool (2.0).
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Ipswich v Norwich (2.15); Tottenham v Chelsea (2.0); Watford v Southampton; West Ham v Luton (2.0).
IRISH LEAGUE (2.15): Bangor v Ards; Coleraine v Linfield; Crusaders v Portadown; Distillery v Cliftonville; Glenavon v Ballymena; *Glentoran v Carrick;* Larne v Newry.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bath v Bangor; Dagenham v Telford; Kidderminster v Enfield; Northwich v Gateshead; Nuneaton v Runcorn; Scarborough v Boston United; Weaidstone v Maidstone; Worcester v Weymouth.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bognor Regis v Wokingham; Billericay v Croydon; Bishop's Stortford v Leytonstone/Ilford; Harrow v Staines; Sutton United v Slough. First division: Farnborough v Hornchurch; Feltham v Aveley; Chesham v Cheshunt; Clapton v Metropolitan Police; Kingstonian v Epsom and Ewell; Oxford City v Borehamwood. Second division: Egham v Corinthian-Casuals; Basildon v Barton; Horsham v Finchley; Letchworth v Epping; Newbury v St Albans; Rainham v Molesey; Southall v Hungerford; Uxbridge v *Tring;* Ware v Eastbourne United.
FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Spennymoor v Ashington; Frickley v Worksop; Horwich v Marine; North Shields v Workington; Durham v Lancaster; South Liverpool v South Bank; Horden v Crook; Arnold v Burton Albion; Alfreton v Sutton; Ilkeston v Witton Albion; Rhyl v Stalybridge Celtic; *Bromsgrove v Stafford* Rangers; Alvechurch v Matlock; Ryde v Grantham; Bromley v Aylesbury; Leatherhead v Windsor and Eton; Welling United v Tooting *and Mitcham;* Harlow v *Fareham;* Carshalton v Hitchin; Hampton v Wembley; Dulwich Hamlet v Kettering; Crawley v Chelmsford; Hendon v Woking; Hastings United v Worthing; Walton and Hersham v Fisher; Hayes v Barnet; Barking v Tilbury; Salisbury v Gloucester; Trowbridge v Poole; Yeovil v Cheltenham; Dorchester v *Minehead; Frome v Merthyr*
OXFORDSHIRE SENIOR CUP: First round (2.0): Sinclair United v Pressed Steel. First round replay: Morris Motors v Woodstock Town.
SURREY SENIOR CUP: Fifth qualifying round: Banstead Athletic v Farleigh Rovers; Dorking v Ash United; Whyteleafe v Chobham.
ESSEX SENIOR TROPHY: Third round (2.0): Collier Row v Tiptree United; Saffron Walden Town v Leyton-Wingate (3.0).
HERTS SENIOR CUP: *Second round replay:* Hemel Hempstead v Hertford Town.
ARTHUR DUNN CUP: First round (2.0): Carthusians v Brentwood; Chigwellians v *Bradfieldians; Cholmeleians v Lancing OB;* Reptonians v Westminsters.
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE (2.0): First division: Ardinians v Aldenhamians; Salopians v Wellingburians.
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): First division: Cambridge United v Watford; Fulham v Q P Rangers; Ipswich Town v Gillingham; Millwall v Norwich City; Portsmouth v Orient; Southend United v Chelsea; Tottenham Hotspur v Charlton Athletic; West Ham United *v Arsenal. Second division:* Luton Town v Bristol Rovers; Oxford United v Brighton; Reading v Brentford; Swindon Town v West Ham United; Wimbledon v Southend United.
ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Berkhamsted v Thatcham; Chalfont St Peter v Fleet; Harefield v Horley; Hoddesdon v Redhill; Burnham v Flackwell Heath (2.15); Chertsey v Edgware; Harwich and Parkeston v Ruislip Manor; Kingsbury v Camberley. Cup Third Round: Wolverton v Marlow.
WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier Division Bideford v Mangotsfield United; Bristol Manor Farm v Wellington (2.30); Clandon v Dawlish; Melksham v Exmouth (2.30); Plymouth v Barnstaple; Saltash v Weston-Super-Mare; Shepton Mallet v Liskeard; Taunton v Clevedon.
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Blyth Spartans v Evenwood; Gretna v Ferryhill; Tow Law v Peterlee; Whitby v Shildon. Cup Second Round: Bishop Auckland v Brandon.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Corby *v Bedworth;* Folkestone v A. P. Leamington; Gosport v Dartford; Stourbridge v Gravesend; Witney v King's Lynn. Midland Division: Bridgnorth v Bridgwater; Dudley v Banbury; *Forest Green Rovers Oldbury v Oldbury;* Milton Keynes v Redditch; Moor Green v Leicester United; Rushden v Coventry Sporting; Shepshed Charterhouse v Tamworth; v Rugby v Wellingborough. Southern Division: Addlestone v Ashford; Andover v Hounslow; Canterbury v Woodford; Chatham v Erith and Belvedere; *Dunstable v Crawley;* Hillingdon v Basingstoke; Poole v Salisbury; R S Sothampton v Dover; Tonbridge v Cambridge City; Waterlooville v Thanet.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Accrington Stanley v Glossop; Ashton United v Leyland Motors; Burscough v Darwen; Congleton Town v Bootle; Formby v Caernarfon Town; Penrith v Leek Town; Radcliffe Borough v Netherfield; St Helens Town v Curzon Ashton; Winsford United v Prescot Cables.

Third division

Bolton v Preston N E
Bradford C v Bournemouth (2.0)
Bristol Rovers v Hull City
Exeter v Millwall
Newport v Sheffield United (3.15)
Orient v Plymouth
Port Vale v Lincoln
Rotherham v Oxford United
Scunthorpe v Gillingham
Southend v Wigan Athletic
Walsall v Brentford
Wimbledon v Burnley

Fourth division

Blackpool v Torquay
Chester v Peterborough
Chesterfield v Wrexham
Colchester v Halifax
Darlington v Aldershot
Reading v Hartlepool
Rochdale v Bristol City
Swindon v Bury
York City v Hereford

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Belper Town v *Bentley Victoria;* Emley v Eastwood Town; Guiseley v Guisborough Town; Mexborough v Appleby Frodingham; Spalding United v Boston; Winterton Rangers v Thackley.

RUGBY UNION

IRISH TRIAL MATCH

Probables v Possibles (at Lansdowne Rd) 2.30.

WELSH CUP

Second round

Aberavon Quins v Pontypool (2.15)
Abercynon v Maesteg (2.15)
Abertillery v Blackwood (2.15)
Cross Keys v Swansea
Gowerton v Ebbw Vale
Llanelli v Carmarthen Ath
Newport v Ammanford
Newport Saracens v Sth Wales Police
Pontypool v Ammanford
Pontypool United v Newbridge
Pontypridd v Waunarlwydd
Seven Sisters v Sth Glam Inst
Tenby United V Aberavon
Tredegar v Furnace Utd
Treorchy v Cardiff (2.15)
Wrexham v Neath (2.15)
Ystradgynlais v Bridgend (2.15)

CLUB MATCHES

Ayr v Watsonians (2.15)
Bath v Harlequins(2.15)
Blackheath v Richmond (2.15)
Boroughmuir v Hawick(2.15)
Coventry v Gloucester
Fylde v Vale of Lune (2.30)
Gala v Langholm (2.15)
Glasgow Acads v Heriot's FP (2.15)
Hartlepool Rovers v Harrogate (2.30)
Headingley v Sale (2.30)
Jed-Forest v Royal High (2.15)
Kelso v Middlesbrough (2.15)
Leicester v Bristol
Ldn Welsh v Ldn Irish (2.30)
Manchester v Liverpool (2.30)
Melrose v Northern (2.15)
Metro Police v Exeter (2.30)
Moseley v Bedford
New Brighton v Nuneaton
Nottingham v Gosforth
Otley v West Hartlepool (2.30)
Penarth v Taunton
Plymouth Alb v Rosslyn Pk (2.45)
Preston G'hoppers v Huddersfield (2.30)
Rugby v Saracens (2.30)
Sheffield v Roundhay (2.30)
Wakefield v Orrell (2.30)
Wasps v Northampton (2.30)
Waterloo v Bradford & Bingley (2.30)

SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP:

Edinburgh v South of Scotland (Myreside 2.0)
North/Midlands v Anglo-Scots (Dunfermline 2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY

Semi final:

Widnes v St. Helens Warrington, (2.15)

HOCKEY

LONDON LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: Guildford v Beckenham; Richmond v Blackheath. League: Bromley v Purley; Hampstead v St Albans; Hawks v Southgate; Old Kingstonians v Hounslow; Spencer v Cheam; Surbiton v Dulwich; Teddington v Reading; Wimbledon v Maidenhead.
WOMENS COUNTY MATCH: Suffolk v Surrey (at Ipswich, 2.0)

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Brighton Bears v Birmingham Bullets (7.30); Bracknell Pirates v Leicester (8.0); Hemel Hempstead v Bolton (8.0); Solent Stars v Manchester Giants (7.30); Kingston v Sunderland (8.0). Second division: Plymouth v Bradford Mythbreakers (7.30). First Division (Women): Southgate v Solent Suns (7.45); Brighton v Manchester (8.0); Northampton v London Central YMCA (7.30).

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Dundee United v St Mirren
Hearts v Celtic
Rangers v Dundee
St Johnstone v Motherwell

Scottish first division

Brechin v Alloa
Clyde v Meadowbank
Falkirk v Airdrieonians
Hamilton v Dumbarton
Kilmarnock v Clydebank
Partick v Morton
Raith v Ayr

Scottish second division

Albion v Queen of South
Arbroath v Montrose
Berwick v East Fife
Forfar v Dunfermline
Queen's Park v East Stirlingshire
Stenhousemuir v Stranraer
Stirling Albion v Cowdenbeath

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Cleveland Bombers v Dundee Rockets, (6.30); Nottingham Panthers v Murrayfield Races (6.30); Streatham Redskins v Ayr Bruins (6.00) First division: Blackpool Seagulls v Solihull Barons (7.00); Crowtree Chiefs v Deeside Dragons (5.30).

LACROSSE

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton v Timperley; Old Hulmeians v Stockport; *Old Stopfordians v Cheadle;* Sale v Old Waconians; South Manchester and Wythenshawe v Sheffield University; Urmston v Mellor.
SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Hampstead v Purley; Hillcroft v Kenton; Chipstead v Lee. Second division: Calthorpe v *Hampstead* "A"; Kenton "A" v Hillcroft "A"; Buckhurst Hill "A" v Hitchin; Croydon v Bexleyheath.

OTHER SPORT

CROSS-COUNTRY: IAC/Rank Xerox international races (Chantry Park, Ipswich, 1.15 pm); Metropolitan League (Parliament Hill); RAF v Midland Counties v UAU v Welsh CCA (Loughborough).
RACKETS: Public Schools Singles Championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington, 9 am).
ROAD RUNNING: Hog's Back 11½ miles (Guildford).
SNOOKER: Hofmeister world doubles *tournament (Northampton, 2.0 and 7.0).*

TOMORROW

First division

Luton v West Bromwich Albion
Sunderland v Leicester

Fourth division

Crewe v Doncaster
Northampton v Mansfield

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone Rovers v Leeds (3.30); Fulham v Bradford Northern; Leigh v Whitehaven (3.30); Wakefield Trinity v Oldham (3.30); Wigan v Hull.
SECOND DIVISION: Barrow v York (2.30); Batley v Swinton (2.30); Cardiff City v Halifax (2.30) Huddersfield v Blackpool Borough; Hunslet v Huyton (3.30); Keighley v Doncaster (3.15); Kent Invicta v Bramley; Rochdale Hornets v Carlisle; Workington Town v Dewsbury (2.30).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Crystal Palace v *Doncaster* (3.30). *Second division:* (4.0): Newcastle v Camden; Team Sandwell v Nottingham; Portsmouth Buccaneers v Merseyside Mustangs; Colchester v Brunel Ducks Uxbridge. First division (women): Crystal Palace v Nottingham (1.30); Sandwell Sportsco v Colchester (2.0). Women's trophy, semi-finals: Ipswich Bobcats v Bolton (4.20); Sheffield Hatters v Bath (3.30).

HOCKEY

EAST CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP at Bishop's Stortford 10.30): Paly-offs for fifth and sixth places: Bishop's Stortford v O Loughtonians; Bluecharts v Felixstowe.
EAST LEAGUE: Lincolnshire v Norfolk (Grimsby, 2.15).
EAST U21 LEAGUE: Lincolnshire U21 v Norfolk U21 (Grimsby, 1.45).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (2.15): RAF v Suffolk (RAF Uxbridge).
TOURNAMENT: South U21 Indoor (Maidenhead).
WOMEN'S COUNTY MATCH (2.0): Somerset v Oxfordshire (Morlands HC Glastonbury).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (2.15): West Witney v WRAF.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Dundee Rockets v Whitley Warriors (5.30); Durham Wasps v Nottingham Panthers (6.30); Murrayfield Racers v Cleveland Bombers (6.30); Streatham Redskins v Fife Flyers (6.0). First division: Peterborough Pirates v Grimsby Buffaloes (6.45); Solihull Barons v Richmond Flyers (6.0); Southampton Vikings v Altrincham Aces (6.15).

VOLLEYBALL

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Men's first division; Weymouth Rembrandt v Speedwell Runcanor (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS Public Schools Singles Championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington, 9.0).
SNOOKER: World Doubles Tournament (Northampton, 2.0 and 7.0).
SQUASH RACKETS: *Middlesex Open (Harga SRC., 11.0).*

Law Report December 17 1983 Court of Appeal

National security requires identification of informant

Secretary of State for Defence and Another v Guardian Newspapers Ltd

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Slade

[Judgment delivered December 16]

The interests of national security required that the identity of the person who disclosed to *The Guardian* newspaper a memorandum of the Secretary of State for Defence classified "secret" should be established forthwith and accordingly section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 afforded no defence to the newspaper.

Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 provides: "No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it be established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime".

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Guardian Newspapers Ltd from Mr Justice Scott's order of December 15 (*The Times*, December 16) that they should return to the plaintiffs, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Attorney General, a photostatic copy of a memorandum prepared by the secretary of state for the Prime Minister.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted but the court refused a stay of execution.

Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC and Mr Peter Prescott for Guardian Newspapers; Mr Simon D. Brown for the plaintiffs.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case raised again the extent to which journalists should be allowed to protect their sources of information.

A document entitled "Deliveries of Cruise Missiles to RAF Greenham Common – Parliamentary and Public Statements" was prepared in the Ministry of Defence on or about October 20, 1983. It was classified "secret".

Only seven copies left the ministry. The primary addressee was the Prime Minister.

The next day a photocopy of one of the copies arrived at the news desk of *The Guardian*. No one on the staff knew whence it came or who delivered it. The editor, after inquiries, decided that it was authentic. He also concluded that the national interest would not be damaged by its publication. On October 31 he published it.

On November 11, the Treasury Solicitor wrote to the editor asking him to deliver up the document. On November 17 *The Guardian's* solicitors replied saying that certain markings on the document might disclose, or assist in the identification of, the source of the information to *The Guardian*, although the editor did not know the source and that in accordance with the well established convention of journalism which had statutory force by section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 he was not prepared to take any step which might lead to the disclosure.

The reply stated that the editor was only concerned to protect his source and was prepared to hand over the document with the markings excised. That was unacceptable and proceedings were begun on November 22.

The principal establishment officer of the Ministry of Defence had sworn that the fact that a document marked "secret" addressed by the Secretary of State for Defence to the Prime Minister had found its way into the possession of a national newspaper was of the gravest importance to the continued maintenance of national security.

It represented a threat to the United Kingdom's relations with her allies who could not be expected to continue to trust her Majesty's Government with secret information which might be liable to unauthorized disclosure and the identity of the person or persons who disclosed the information had to be established for the preservation of national security.

The editor of *The Guardian* in an affidavit in reply spoke of the thought given as to whether it was proper to publish the document and said that *The Guardian* would never publish anything which in the editor's opinion would damage national security.

Whether or not the editor acted in the public interest in publishing the document was not the issue. The secretary of state's concern was quite different. It was that a servant of the Crown who handled classified documents had decided for himself whether classified information should be disseminated to the public. If he could do it on one occasion he might do it on others when the safety of the state would truly be imperilled.

The responsibility for deciding what should or should not be published was that of the government of the day and not that of individual civil servants or editors. It was not the publication of the document which formed the basis of the secretary of state's complaint, but the fact that a copy got into unauthorized hands.

The Crown's case before the judge was very simple. The original document was Crown property and Crown copyright. Any copy of that document was an infringing copy and by the combined effect of sections 2, 4, 18 and 39 of the Copyright Act 1956, the Crown had the same rights in respect of the copy in *The Guardian's* possession as it would have in respect of the original. Accordingly it was entitled to an order requiring *The Guardian*, who relied on section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, to deliver up the copy.

The judge held that section 10 of the 1981 Act was not intended to interfere with proprietary rights. He went on to say that if it had been necessary for the Crown to rely upon the exceptions to section 10 he would have refused to make an order at the present stage leaving it to the Crown to establish by evidence called at the trial the actions to which the exceptions applied.

Both parties appealed. *The Guardian* now challenged the Crown's right of property and the judge's construction of the effect of section 10 of the 1981 Act.

The Crown challenged the judge's view that it could not rely upon the exceptions to section 10 in the absence of a full trial.

The matter should be approached from a different point of view. Prior to the 1981 Act it was the practice of the courts to have regard to the conscientious objections of priests, doctors, journalists and others to breaches of undertakings of confidentiality. The courts had to balance competing public interests.

Section 10 of the 1981 Act varied its discretion or practice to the extent that, unless the exceptional circumstances were established to its satisfaction, the court was bound to refuse to require any person to disclose the source of information contained in a publication. The section did not however remove the court's discretion outside that category.

There was a very high degree of probability that the original document was copied using Crown facilities and Crown materials. If that was right, the copy document in possession of *The Guardian* was Crown property.

If contrary to all probability, the original copy was removed from Crown premises and copied using private apparatus, the copy was an infringing copy.

His Lordship could see no grounds for thinking that the original markings which had now been obliterated were not put on by a servant of the Crown in the course of his official duties. Disclosure of the document was needed in order to identify the servant of the Crown who in breach of his statutory duty had copied the document and supplied the copy to *The Guardian*: see *Norwich Pharmacal Co v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1974] AC 133).

The real issue in the case was whether the section 10 exception or its common law equivalent was made out. His Lordship did not consider that there was a triable issue which could not or should not be resolved in interlocutory proceedings.

The Crown's case was that it had in its employment a servant or servants who had access to classified information and who were prepared, for reasons which seemed good to them to betray the trust which was reposed in them.

The responsibility for treating what information was to be treated as classified and what should be released to the public domain was that of ministers who were answerable to the nation in Parliament.

It was fully established that the exceptions to section 10 applied. The Crown was entitled to discovery as an aid to pursuing its rights against its dishonest servant: see the *Norwich Pharmical* case and *British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd* ([1981] AC 1096).

Refusal to order delivery up would wholly frustrate those rights and would be contrary to the interests of justice. Furthermore the Crown was threatend with further acts which could constitute very serious breaches of the Official Secrets Acts. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS, agreeing, said that *prima facie* the circumstances pointed towards the copyright covering the entire contents of the document.

His Lordship would not construe section 10 of the 1981 Act narrowly. In such a situation the court had a discretion as to whether it should order delivery up of the document to the plaintiff.

If the only purpose for claiming the document was to discover the source that provided it, the opening words of the section directed the court not to exercise its discretion in favour of the plaintiff unless the case fell within one of the exceptions.

The press had always attached the greatest importance to their ability to protect their sources of information. If they were not able to do so they believed that many of their sources would dry up and that that would seriously interfere with their effectiveness.

Parliament by enacting section 10 had clearly recognized the importance that attached to the ability of the press to protect their sources. No harm could be seen in giving a wide construction to the opening words of the section in view of the later exceptions.

Prima facie, his Lordship would have held that the defendants were entitled to be protected by section 10. However in the particular circumstances he had no doubt that *The Guardian* should be ordered to hand over the document forthwith. It was clearly established that it was necessary in the interests of national security that the source from which the document came should be identified.

To take an unauthorized copy of such a document which was marked "secret" and put it into circulation was the clearest breach of security procedures and of the Official Secrets Act.

The threat to national security lay in the fact that someone probably in a senior position and with access to highly classified material could not be trusted. So long as he was unidentified he presented a very serious threat to our national security. The success of security procedures depended in large measure on the trustworthiness of those who operated them and had access to classified material.

His Lordship regarded it as a matter of urgency that every possible step should be taken to identify the untrustworthy person and remove him from a position in which he had access to classified material.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, agreeing, said that the order of Mr Justice Scott, being a mandatory order for delivery on an interlocutory motion, the first inquiry must be as to the Crown's rights in respect of the document.

The Crown's evidence established a strong *prima facie* right to be treated as the owner by virtue of section 18 (1) of the Copyright Act 1956.

Mr Prescott submitted that the rights of copyright did not extend to that part of the document which was covered by identification marks, and that if the matter went to trial a severance of that part might be required; see *Warne & Co v Seebohm* ((1888) 39 Ch D 73) and *Nichols Advanced Vehicle Systems Inc v Rees Oliver* ((1979) RPC 127,141). However the facts of those two cases were far removed from the facts of the present case, and his Lordship was not persuaded that there was any substance in the point, which was not argued below.

Section 3 of the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977, gave the court a discretion to award damages, instead of ordering delivery up of the document, but as the judge had pointed out the document was of no intrinsic value and to deprive the Crown of the remedy of delivery would deprive it of any effective remedy at all. If section 10 of the 1981 Act were disregarded the Crown would, at trial, obtain an order for delivery of the document intact in its present state.

The Guardian submitted, in effect, that Mr Justice Scott acted in contravention of section 10 by requiring *The Guardian* to disclose the source of its information, and that the Crown had failed to establish any matters taking the case outside the ambit of the section.

The present case differed in two significant respects from *British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd* the precursor of the 1981 Act, in that, first, the name of the relevant source was known to Granada, and second the relevant documents had been handed over by the time the appeal was heard, so that no question of proprietary remedies arose. The order appealed from was simply to make and serve an affidavit setting forth the relevant name or names.

His Lordship felt some doubts whether section 10 had any relevance at all to the present facts; it was at least arguable that Parliament did not intend thereby to interfere with the rights of owners to recover documents under the general law, even if delivery up of the property in question might incidentally disclose a source of published information.

A pointer in the opposite direction might be that delivery of a document having no intrinsic value other than as a means of identifying the source would at least seem to offend against the spirit of the section.

On the other hand there was force in Mr Brown's submission that the section was merely to place restrictions on an order for disclosure by oral evidence or affidavit, such having been the type of order sought in the *British Steel* case.

In the present case *The Guardian's* editor had stated "*The Guardian* does not know and has no means of finding out who the source is." There was no certainty that the effect of the order sought by the Crown would in fact involve disclosure of *The Guardian*'s source of information, since that depended entirely on whether the partially blacked out markings would lead to that source.

It was at least arguable that a publisher praying section 10 in aid must satisfy the court by affirmative evidence that the effect of the order would and not merely might reveal the source.

His Lordship in any event was satisfied that delivery of the document was necessary in the interests of national security. It was common ground that its publication did not jeopardize national security, but that was not the relevant point.

What was relevant was that the person responsible for the leak must have betrayed his trust, and while it appeared in the present case that no security risk had been involved, the court must take judicial notice of the fact that a future leakage of many other secret documents from the Ministry of Defence might gravely prejudice national security if published.

His Lordship also considered that disclosure was necessary in the interests of justice. *The Guardian* would suffer no damage, and could not be criticized on the ground of failure to take adequate steps to protect the confidentiality of its unknown source. Whereas if the Crown were compelled to wait until trial it could well suffer irreparable damage through the further activities of the unknown informant.

Thus to deny the remedy sought would be a significant denial of justice, and the balance of convenience was overwhelmingly in favour of an order being made. The appeal should therefore be dismissed.

Solicitors: Lovell, White & King; Treasury Solicitor.

Costs must be estimated

Atkinson v Atkinson

Solicitors in matrimonial proceedings involving property adjustment or lump sum award claims were under a duty when appearing before the court to have made as informed as possible an estimate of the outstanding and foreseeable costs of the proceedings, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce (sitting with Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson) said in the Court of Appeal on December 14.

HIS LORDSHIP said that that was particularly the case where the parties were legally aided, where the impact of the Law Society charge frequently became the most important feature relevant to the appreciation of the court as to what was to be done and what was practical.

Granting of legal aid

Regina v Brigg Justices, Ex parte Lynch

The fact that a defendant charged with indecent exposure was a serving soldier ought without more to have led to his being granted legal aid, subject to means, as a conviction for such an offence would be highly likely to result in his discharge from the Army, thereby threatening his livelihood, Mr Justice Mann said in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins, on December 14.

His Lordship granted the applicant judicial review by way of certiorari to quash two decisions of the Brigg Justices to refuse him legal aid in respect of a charge of indecent exposure

Late amendment of indictment

Regina v Corfield (Richard Ian Michael)

Where, in a trial for burglary the indictment was amended, after the defendant had given evidence, to add a count of conspiracy to steal which could have been charged on the original indictment and no opportunity was given for prosecution witnesses to be recalled, it was impossible to say that there had been no injustice to the defendant.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Nolan) so held on December 15, allowing an appeal by Richard Ian Michael Corfield against his conviction at Chelmsford Crown Court on March 28 for conspiracy to steal.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHS

DEATHS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER

UNWANTED DOGS CHRISTMAS DINNER FUND

REMEMBER

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Issue	Deadlines
26 December	NO PAPER
27 December	22 December, 5 pm
28 December	22 December, 5 pm
29 December	22 December, 5 pm
2 January	29 December, 5 pm
3 January	29 December, 5 pm
4 January	29 December, 5 pm

Continued on page 17

Weekend radio

From facing page

Saturday's World Service

Sunday's World Service

هكذا من الأصل

Television and radio programmes
Edited by Peter Davalle

Saturday

BBC 1

.35 **Inch High Private Eye:** American cartoon series; 9.00 *Saturday Super Store:* Guests include Duran Duran and Boy George, magician Paul Daniels, Tracy Ullman, The Police and Slade. Plus Sarah Greene with some ideas on Christmas gifts.

.15 **Grandstand.** The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.40 News bulletin; 12.45 Ascot Racing: the 12.50; 1.00 Sports *round-up* (general survey); 1.15 Ascot Racing: the SGB Handicap Steeplechase; 1.30 Rallysprint: the Austin Rover Rallysprint, from Donington; 1.50 Ascot Racing: we see the 1.55; At 2.05 Rallysprint: back to Donington; 2.25 Ascot Racing: the 2.30 Frogmore Handicap; 2.40 Rallycross: Motaquip British Grand Prix, from Brands Hatch.

.00 **Cross Country:** The Rank Xerox International Cross Country, from Ipswich; 3.35 Showjumping: the Volvo World Cup Qualifier. From the Grand *Hall, Olympia; 3.50 Half time.*

0 **Rugby League:** A second semi-final match in the John Player Trophy; 4.35 Final Score.

.10 **News:** read by Jan Leeming; 5.20 Sports round-up.

.25 **The Little and Large Show:** *Start of a new series. The* guests include Kathy Staff (as Last of the Summer Wine's Nora Batty), Lonnie Donegan, and Bucks Fizz. Plus Breakfast Time weather man Francis Wilson's comedy debut.

00 **The Saturday Film: Can't Stop the Music** (1980) Disco musical about an aspiring composer and his girlfriend trying to make the Big Time in New York. Starring The Village People, with Valerie Perrine and Bruce Jenner, and Hot Gossip. Director: Nancy *Walker. The dances include* the spectacular YMCA number.

The Two Ronnies: Patricia Routledge joins the comedy pair in an Agatha Christie spoof (Ronnie Barker plays Poirot) Musical guest: singer Stephanie Lawrence.

50 **Bergerac:** A man (Michael Angelis) is arrested for the brutal murder of his wife while on camping holiday in France. John Nettles plays the title role.

15 **News:** read by Jan Leeming. And sports round-up.

10 **International Show Jumping:** the Radio Rentals Puissance, from the Grand Hall, Olympia. Commentary by Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley. Two former winners, Gerd Wiltfang and Hugo Simon, are in the chase for honours. David Vine introduces the coverage.

0 **Late Night Horror: The Devil Rides Out** (1968) Well above average British thriller, adapted from the Dennis Wheatley novel, with Christopher Lee on the side of *the angels for a change. He* takes on a bunch of Satanists, including Patrick Mower and Charles Gray. Also starring Nike Arrighi, Leon Greene and Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies. Directed by Terence Fisher (director of the Hammer Dracula). Ends at 12.35am.

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain:** with the Parkinsons (Michael and Mary). Includes news at 7.00 and 8.00; sport at 7.10; Jeni Barnett's Pick of the Week at 6.30.

8.30 **Rat Rapping:** with Roland, the super-rat.

8.40 **Data Run:** The Spacewatch winner visits Kennedy Space Centre, in Florida. Also, Christmas grottoes in Britain. And special guest Roy Kinnear.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **LWT Information:** What's on in the area; 9.30 **Sesame Street:** The Muppets help American children climb the tree of *knowledge;* 10.30 **The Saturday Show:** Fun for youngsters, with a Christmas pantomime flavour.

12.15 **World of Sport.** The line-up is 12.20 World Cup Ski Jumping: from Thunder Bay, Ontario; 12.45 News bulletin from ITN; 12.50 On the Ball: analysis of *the Wales v Yugoslavia match;* 1.20 Doncaster Racing: we see the 1.30 race and the 2.00. 1.45 Greyhound racing (*William Hill Classic,* from Wembley).

2.10 **Snooker:** Live action from the *second semi-final* of the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship, from Derngate Centre in Northampton. (Further coverage at 2.40, 4.00, and 11.10 tonight.) 2.25 Doncaster Racing: the 3.30. 2.40 Snooker: more frames from Northampton. Half-time results; 4.00 Snooker. 4.45 *Results.*

5.00 **News from ITN.**

5.05 **Chips:** There is something resembling a full-scale riot when a group of vicious punk rockers go on the rampage.

6.00 **3-2-1:** Family game show, compered by Ted Rogers. The *Glories of Ancient Greece take* a heavy knocking in the comedy sketches starring Frankie Howerd.

7.00 **Cannon and Ball:** The comedians' guests include Shakin' Stevens, Sarah Brightman, Suzanne Dando and Jocky Wilson. Tonight's comedy highlights include a mutiny at sea.

7.45 **Punchlines:** Tonight's celebrity partners are Dana and Chris Tarrant. The Punchlines "pals" include Anne Diamond (of TV-am), Evita star Stephanie Lawrence, and Spurs captain Steve Perryman.

8.15 **Hart to Hart:** A friend of the Harts awakes from a seven-year coma . . . and some frightening memories come flooding back.

9.15 **News.** And sports round-up.

9.30 **Film: Piranha** (1978) Shocking drama about a shoal of vicious flesh-eaters heading towards a lake packed with holidaymakers. With Bradford Dillman and Heather Menzies.

11.10 **Snooker:** Second semi-final of the Hofmeister Doubles Championship. 12.30 **London news.** Followed by: **After Midnight:** Ken Livingstone is guest presenter of the chat show.

1.15 **ELO:** Entertainment from the English Light Orchestra. Followed by the Rev Jim Graham's **Night Thoughts.**



Frankie Howerd and Company go Greek in tonight's edition of Yorkshire Telvision's family game show 3-2-1 (ITV, 6.00pm)

BBC 2

10.35 **Open University** (until 11.00am).

2.45 **The Sky At Night:** A repeat of last week's documentary called The Black Hole Weigh-In in which Patrick Moore talks to Dr Michael Penston about an extraordinary development *in black holes investigation (r).*

3.05 **Play Away:** Comedy and music from a talented group headed by Brian Cant and Floella Benjamin.

3.25 **Film: The Emigrants.** Swedish epic in two parts (the second film, The New Land, can be seen tonight at 11.00pm) based on the novels of Vilhelm Moberg. It tells the story of brave Swedish farmers who leave their country in the middle of the nineteenth century to settle in North America. The focus is on the Oskar family, and their *struggle to establish a* settlement in a hostile country. Co-starring two of the pillars of Swedish cinema. Liv Ullmann and Max Von Sydow. Directed by Jan Troell.

5.50 **Greek – Language and People:** Final programme. It examines the impact that tourism is having on the traditional Greek way of life. Includes visits to Corfu, Metsovo and the island of Sifnos.

6.15 **Whistle Test – on the Road:** A second showing of last night's programme in which Aztec *Camera were seen on stage at* Aston University, Birmingham (r).

6.55 **Newsnight December:** A compilation of reports that have appeared in BBC2's nightly news programme during the past month. They include Tom McGurk's frightening film about heroin addiction in Dublin. **7.45 News.** And sports round-up.

8.00 **Zubin Mehta Masterclass:** Five young conductors work on Paganini's Violin Concerto No 1. Then Rodica Iosub-Cohen and the Israel Philharmonic, under Mehta, play a part of the concerto.

8.50 **Film: Night and Day** (1946). Totally unreliable biography of the composer Cole Porter, starring Cary Grant. Co-starring Alexis Smith. With Mary Martin as herself. *Naturally, the songs are* terrific. Director: Michael Curtiz. **10.58 News.**

11.00 **Film: The New Land** (see 3.25 entry). The concluding part of the Swedish film about emigrants to North America in the last century. Ends at 1.35am

CHANNEL 4

2.00 **Coping:** How Brenda and Bobby coped with the loss of their baby daughter.

2.25 **Film: Monkey Business** (1952*). Frantic comedy starring Cary Grant as the scientist searching for a drug to halt the ageing process. Good supporting cast includes Ginger Rogers, Charles Coburn, Marilyn Monroe (small role) and Hugh Marlowe. *Director: Howard Hawks.*

4.15 **Film: Healthy, Wealthy, and Dumb:** Three Stooges comedy*

4.35 ***The Chicago Teddy Bears:*** Gangster world spoof. Linc's (Dean Jones) speakeasy is threatened with closure because of a meat boycott.

5.05 **Brookside:** two repeated episodes (r).

6.00 **How We Learned to Ski:** Final film in the series. The "bump" skiers of Vail, Colorado, demonstrate aeronautics in a spectacular competition.

6.30 **News headlines.** And weather prospects. Followed by:– **Citizen 2000:** Two single mothers talk about their first year of motherhood.

7.00 **7 Days:** Moral and religious topics in the headlines.

7.30 **Union World:** How the unions are fighting the Official Secrets Act and the polygraph, better known as the lie detector.

8.00 **Fragile Earth: Pantanal.** A film about the annual cycle of *drought and flood in the* enormous area (100,000 square kilometres) of marshy prairie in the south-western corner of Brazil.

9.00 **The Avengers:** Why Steed (Patrick Macnee) is under house arrest. And what is the *awful* news he hears about Tara? (Linda Thorson) (r).

10.00 **Fox:** Episode 12 (of 13). Ray (Derrick O'Connor), heading north to pick up a criminal on the run, does not know that the police are lying in wait for him (r).

11.00 **Interference:** Final edition of the comedy show involving a pirate radio station and a bunch of enthusiastic entertainers. It has been a show that it has not been easy to like.

11.30 **The Worst of Hollywood: Robot Monster** (1953*). *Unspeakable science-fiction* movie with George Barrows as the robot with a mission to destroy the last six humans left alive by his Calcinator Death Ray. Directed (if that is the right word for it) by Mike Russell Hills. Closedown at 12.55.

Radio 4

25 Shipping Forecast.
30 News; Farming Today.
50 *Reading Between the Signs.* 6.55 Weather; Travel.
70 News. 7.10 Today's Papers. *7.15 On Your Farm.* 7.45 Reading Between the Signs. 7.50 It's a Bargain. 7.55 Weather; Travel.
10 News. 8.10 Today's Papers.
15 Sport on 4. Includes an assessment of last night's Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur clash.
18 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel.
10 News.
15 Breakaway. Holiday, travel and leisure scene.
10 News Stand. Ann Leslie with a review of weekly magazines.
15 The Week in Westminster. With Hugo Young, of The Sunday Times.
10 Daily Service.†
15 *Pick of the Week:* Margaret Howard with programme highlights.
15 From our own correspondent. BBC correspondents report from around the world.
10 News; Money Box. Advice on personal finance.
7 The First Half Century. Alistair Cooke takes a personal view of social life in Britain and the USA from 1900-1950, as reflected in popular music of the day (3). The Great War. 12.55 Weather.
0 News.
0 Any Questions? from Bishopsgate, London. With David Steel, Denis Healey, John Selwyn Gummer and Lesley Abdela. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
0 News.
5 Afternoon Theatre 'Music of a Small Life' by Ted Allbeury. The little triumphs and disappointments of a man (James Bolam) in whose life music has played an important role. Recalling the music, he recalls his own life in very great detail. The play was much liked by listeners when first broadcast. Some said it moved them to tears (r).
0 Medicine Now. Report on the health of medical care.
0 Worlds of Faith (12) Points of Departure – Issue of Faith and Salvation. With Professor John Bowker.
) News; International Assignment. *BBC correspondents on a* contemporary issue.
4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for the disabled.
5.00 Wildlife. Listeners' Topics.
5.25 Week Ending (s) Satirical review of the week's news 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather; Travel; Programme News
6.00 News; Sports *Round-up.*
6.25 Desert Islands Discs. The film star James Stewart selects some favourite records.
7.05 Stop The Week with Robert Robinson†
7.45 Baker's Dozen with Richard Baker †
8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre 'The Years Between' by Daphne Du Maurier. The play is the personal choice of Richard Pasco and his wife Barbara Leigh-Hunt who play the central roles of the husband and wife, separated for years by the Second World War, and then reunited. With Timothy Stark and Sean Barrett.
10.00 News.
10.15 Living Memory: Dr Rupert Sheldrake, a biochemist from Cambridge, talks about his theory which he calls 'morphic resonance', developed from work on patterns of behaviour in rats. He thinks that memory is not stored within the brain. An influence, he believes, may operate across time and space.
11.00 Lighten Our Darkness. An evening meditation.
11.15 A Hundred Years of the Met. The story of the Metropolitan Opera, New York, recently celebrating its centenary, told in words and music. Presented by Daniel Snowman.
12.00 News.
12.10 Weather.
12.15 Close. Shipping Forecast.
England: VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme News. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News.
8.05 Aubade: Kalman's Countess Maritza overture; Joplin's The *Cascades (Rifkin, soloist), Bach,* reconstructed Rifkin (Concerto in A for oboe d'amore and strings) and Poulenc's Concert champêtre (George Malcolm, harpsichord). †
9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review: Bernard Keeffe on different interpretations of Beethoven's Violin Concerto: *and Christopher Headington on* new chamber music records. †
10.15 Stereo Release: new records, including Chausson's Concerto in D for violin, piano and string quartet; and Martinu's La revue *de cuisine.* †
11.15 Schubert and Rossini in Salzburg: Schubert's Symphony No 6 and, at 11.50 Rossini's Stabat Mater. With Jessye Norman, Agnes Baltsa, Francisco Ariza and Simon Estes as soloists. Interval reading at 11.45.
1.00 News.
1.05 British Contemporaries of Brahms: The Parikian-Fleming-Roberts Trio play Edward Bache's Piano trio in D minor, Op 25; and Willi am Sterndale Bennett's Chamber Trio, Op 26. †
1.50 Ernest Ansermet: Recordings of Chabier's rhapsody Espana; Debussy's Nocturnes; Haydn's Symphony 85, Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, and Falla's ballet The Three-Cornered Hat.
3.50 Ives the Revivalist: BBC Singers, Delmé Quartet and soloists perform the Quartet No 1 (A Revival Service): The Celestial Country. †
5.00 Jazz Record Requests: Peter Clayton's selection.
5.45 Critics Forum: Tonight's panel – Matthew Hoffman, Christopher Ricks and Bryan Robertson, with Natalie Wheen in the chair. Topics include the National Theatre production of Jean Seberg, and Brian Moore's novel Cold Heaven.
6.35 Organ Music by Herbert Howells: Walter Hilsman, in Peterborough Cathedral, plays, works including the Psalm *Prelude Set 2, No 1 (De Profundis).* †
7.20 Jean-Philippe Rameau: A performance of his opera Platée, written for the 1745 marriage of the Dauphin. With the Ragian Baroque Singers and Players. Soloists include Jean-Claude Orliac (title role), Jean-Philippe Lafont, Sarah Walker, Stephen *Varcoe, Richard Jackson,* Christopher Gillett, Gillian Fisher, Philip Langridge, William Kendall and Elizabeth Parcells. Act 1. †
8.30 The Cult of the Exotic: Why ancient Egypt has become a fashionable literary setting in the work of Jewish intellectuals in modern America. A reflection by *Marilyn Butler,* English Fellow at St Hugh's College, Oxford.
8.50 Platée: The second act. †
9.35 A Closer Look: Paul Webster reads Andrew Marvell's To his Coy Mistress, and Bermudas. With Vernon Scannell.
9.55 Platée: The third and final act.†
11.00 The Complete Webern: Eight *Early Songs, Op posth to poems* by Dehmel, Goethe, Greif, Nietzche and others. With Jan Daegatani (mezzo) and John Constable (piano).†
11.15 News. Until 1.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour until 1.00pm and then from 6.00pm (except 8.00 and 9.00), headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30am (MF/MW). 5.00am George Ferguson. The Saturday Early Show.† 7.30 David Jacobs.†incl 8.02 Racing bulletin. 9.30 Sounds of the 60s with Keith Fordyce.† 10.30 Album Time.†with Peter Clayton. 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.30 Kenny's Office Party with Kenny Everett.† 1.00 The Grumbleweeds. 1.30 Sport on Two *with special guest Eric Morecambe at* 2.00. Rugby League (2.15, 3.02, 4.55). Show Jumping (3.02, 4.55). 5.00 Sports Report, incl. 5.00 Classified Football Results. 5.50 Pools news and results. 6.00 Country Greats in Concert featuring Bill Monroe and Linda Cassady. 7.00 Beat the Record. Keith Fordyce tests your musical knowledge. 7.30 Ron Goodwin conducts the BBC *Concert Orchestra from the Southport* Theatre. With Gemma Craven. 8.20-8.40 Tony Barnfield explores tonight's venue and its stars. 9.30 Big Band Special. The BBC Radio Big Band.† 10.00 Saturday Rendezvous.†Nordring Festival 1983. 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Pete Murray's Late Show.† 2.00-5.00am Bill Rennells presents You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

News on the half hour until 12.30pm, then 2.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 10.00 and 12.00 midnight (MF/MW). 6.00am Mark Page. 8.00 Tony Blackburn's Saturday Show. 10.00 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00pm My Top 12. Noddy Holder.† 2.00 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 Saturday Live with Richard Skinner.† 6.30 In Concert, featuring Elvis Costello. Recorded at the Hammersmith Palais, London.† 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00-12.00 Gary Davies.
VHF Radios 1 and 2.
5.00am With Radio 2. 1.00pm With Radio 1. 7.30-5.00am With Radio 2.

World Service: page 28

QUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: Hz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World ice MF 648kHz/463m.

C 1 Wales: 5.20-5.25 pm Sports News Wales. 12.35 am ther for Wales. Scotland: 5.20-5.25 Scoreboard. 10.00-11.00 tscene: Football: highlights of a tish Premier League match. national Show Jumping from the nd Hall, Olympia, featuring the Radio tals Puissance. 12.40 am Close. hern Ireland: 5.00-5.10 pm hern Ireland results (opt-out from ndstand). 5.20-5.25 Northern Ireland s. 12.35 am Northern Ireland news lines and weather, close. England: -5.25 pm London – *Sport. South-t (Plymouth) – Spotlight Sport. Other* ish Regions – Sport/Regional s. 12.40 am Close.

Starts 1.55pm Week in Politics. 2.35 Amateur Naturalist. 3.00 Tube. 4.30 Utopia Ltd. 4.55 Yr Awr r. 5.55 Superted. 6.05 Incredible . 7.00 Newyddion. 7.15 Storom yd. *8.15 Arolwg. 8.45 Rockers* show. 9.30 Y Maes Chwarae. 0 Tragedy of Carmen. 11.45 Film: zilla Versus the Smog Monster. am Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

HTV WEST As London except: 9.25am Adventures of Niko. 10.05-10.30 Stingray. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Closedown. HTV WALES: No variation.

GRANADA 10.20am-10.30 Cartoon. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Hawaii Five-O. 1.25 Closedown.

BORDER *As London except:* 9.25am Cartoon. 9.40-10.30 Tarzan. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am Space 1999. 10.20-10.30 Cartoon. 4.55pm-5.00 Sports Results. 5.10-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am News, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 9.25 am-11.00 Saturday Space. 5.05 pm Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.10-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25am Melotoons. 9.35 Metal Mickey. 10.00-10.30 University Challenge. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am Wattoo Wattoo. 9.35 Smurfs. 10.00-10.30 Mork and Mindy. 5.05pm Diff'rent strokes: 5.35-6.00 DJ. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: Starts 9.35am Fangface. 10.00-10.30 Adventures of Gulliver. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Reflections, Closedown.

TSW As London except: 9.25am Dick Tracy. 9.30 Freeze Frame. 10.30 Magic Micro Mission. 11.00 Little House on the Prairie. 11.45-12.15pm Joanie Loves Chachi. 5.05 Newsport. 5.10-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Postscript. Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: Starts 9.35am Vicky the Viking. 10.05-10.30 Unicorn Tales. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am At the End of the Day. Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25 am Morning Glory. 9.30 Tarzan. 10.25-10.30 TT time. 5.05 pm News. 5.07-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30 am Rock Around Midnight. 1.30 Poet's Corner, closedown.

CENTRAL as London except: 9.25 am Professor Kitzel. 9.30 Green Hornet. 9.55 Wattoo, Wattoo. 10.00-10.30 Terrahawks. 5.05 pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30 am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25am Storytime. 9.35 Stingray. 10.05-10.30 Terrahawks. 5.05pm-6.00 Knight Rider. 12.30am Late Call. Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

Sunday

BBC 1

9.00 **Heads and Tails:** for the toddlers; 9.15 **Sunday Worship:** from Westcott House Chapel, Cambridge; 10.00 **Asian Magazine:** with the Bedford Asian Christian Choir; 10.30 **Let's Go:** the mentally handicapped and local libraries (r); 10.40 **Maths Help:** Graphs (2) (r); 10.55 **Digame:** Final lesson in the Spanish course for beginners (r); 11.20 **People First:** for parents with mentally handicapped children; 11.45 **Business Club:** A Visit to Hartlepool (r).

12.10 **See Hear:** for those with hearing difficulties; 1.00 **Farming:** 1.30 **Discovering Birds:** Tony Soper and the pleasures of bird-watching; 1.55 **News headlines.**

2.00 **Film: The Man in the Santa Claus Suit** (1980). Sentimental made-for-TV story in which Fred Astaire plays eight roles. Also starring Gary Burghoff and Nanette Fabray. Director: Corey Allen; 3.30 **Mickey and** ***Donald:*** *cartoons from Disney.*

3.55 **International Show Jumping:** Cognac Courvoisier Knock-Out Stakes, at Olympia.

4.50 **The Flight of the Condor:** Final *film in this three-part series* about the wildlife of the Andes. Today: the complex life in the *Amazon rainforest. Highly* recommended (r); 5.45 **News.**

5.55 **Jane Eyre:** Final episode. The voice that prevents Jane (Zelah Clarke) from becoming Mrs Rivers. Timothy Dalton plays Rochester.

6.25 **Mind How You Go:** The first *aid that can save road* accident victims' lives. With Jimmy Savile; 6.35 **Appeal:** Pauline Collins asks us to support The Crossroads Scheme.

6.40 **Songs of Praise:** The 100th anniversary of the Boys Brigade is celebrated in song at Romsey Abbey.

7.15 **Hi-de-Hi!** Jeffrey Fairbrother's domestic arrangements confuse some of the holiday camp staff. With Simon Cadell.

7.45 **By the Sword Divided:** Final episode of this Civil War *drama series Anne and John* Fletcher return to Arnescote as the new owners. Tom is to be sent to the Tower of London, and Anne makes a last desperate plea to him to change his allegiance. (Ceefax titles, page 170.)

8.40 **Film: Studio Murders** (1980) Made-for-TV thriller about a television soap opera which becomes a murderer's target. starring Robert Vaughn, Suzanne Pleshette, Barry Newman and Patrick O'Neal. Director: William Wiard; 10.15 **News.** Read Jan Leeming.

10.30 **Omnibus:** How Yehudi Menuhin is bringing classical music to under-privileged (a soup kitchen, a prison, etc). Also: a film about the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor

11.20 **The Weekenders:** The hard work that went into organizing this year's London weekend of the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs at the Royal Albert Hall.

11.5 **Sergeant Bilko:** Phil Silvers in the evergreen Army comedy series* (r).

12.20 **Weather for Monday.**

TV-am

7.25 **Good Morning Britain:** With David Frost. He introduces today's Thought for a Sunday speaker.

7.30 **Rub-a-Dub-Tub:** for the under-eights.

8.30 **Good Morning Britain:** The line-up includes news at 8.30 and 9.22; Sport at 8.35; the Sunday papers, with a special guest, at 8.40; and Behind the News at 8.55.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **LWT Information:** what's on in the area; 9.30 **Herbs for All:** The facts about herbal medicine (r); 10.00 **Morning Worship:** from the Methodist church in Ballynahinch, co Down; 11.00 **Getting On:** The 66-year relationship of a remarkable couple called the Allwoods; 11.30 **Move It** – with BMX a film about the booming sport of Moto Cross.

12.00 **Weekend World:** with Brian Walden. What will happen to rates and local services after the Government's rate-capping plans. Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Minister, is interviewed.

1.00 **Police 5:** with Shaw Taylor, Scotland Yard's unofficial mouthpiece. 1.15 **The Smurfs:** cartoon about tiny folk; 1.30 ***Happy Days: American*** comedy series.

2.00 **Credo:** The state, and future, of religious education in Britain. With Philip Whitehead.

2.30 **London news.** Followed by: **Snooker:** Live coverage of the final of the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship, from Derngate Centre in Northampton (see also 10.45 tonight).

5.00 **Bullseye:** Darts mixed with general knowledge, with big prizes.

5.30 **Sunday Sunday:** Showbusiness magazine. Sean Connery is interviewed by the show's presenter Gloria Hunniford. Music from The Flying Pickets; 6.30 **News.**

6.40 **Carols from Christ Church** A feast of Christmas music, interspersed with readings (from the works of T S Eliot and Robert Southwell) by Alec McCowen and Ian Charleson.

7.15 **Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right:** The Cunninghams, from Leytonstone, versus the Lappins, from Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

7.45 **Agatha Christie's Partners in Crime:** James Warwick and Francesca Annis in The Unbreakable Alibi, with Anna Nygh and Reece Dinsdale.

8.45 **Once Upon a Murder:** Part one of a three-part drama, set in the 1920s, telling how the police department in a small community in Georgia sets about solving a series of murders. Starring Charlton Heston, Keith Carradine, Victoria Tennant, Stephen Collins, Brad Davis and Billy Dee Williams. Part two tomorrow night (at 9.00), and part three on Tuesday night, at the same time.

10.30 **News from ITN:** 10.45 **London news headlines.** Followed by: **Snooker:** The climax of the Hofmeister World Doubles 1983. Followed by **Night Thoughts,** from the Rev Jim Graham.

Wings over the Danube: a scene from Alan McGregor's The Natural World film Pelican Delta (BBC 2, 7.45pm)

BBC 2

11.25 **Open University** (until 1.05pm).

2.25 **Horizon: The Academy.** Basic training in FBI methods at a training complex near Washington (how, for example, to use a gun "with deadly force") (r).

3.15 **Beethoven Piano Sonatas:** Alfred Brendel plays the master's last piano sonata, Opus 111 in C minor.

3.45 **The Great Palaces: The Story of Parliament.** A second chance to see the seventh in *this eight-film series.* It is called The Business of the House, and explains how new Acts come into existence (r).

4.35 **Rugby Special:** The best action from the Scotland v New Zealand clash (screening was postponed because of industrial action). Plus highlights of the Abvercynon v Maesteg clash.

5.25 **Ski Sunday:** The Men's Downhill in Val Gardena.

6.00 **News Review:** Jan Leeming, with sub-titles.

6.30 **The Money Programme:** Post-Christmas sales: the bargains and the pitfalls. And the story of commodity dealer Marc Rich whose operations are resulting in tax fraud charges in the US.

7.15 **Russell Harty:** He watches the nativity play staged by pupils at St Mary's Primary School in Sheffield.

7.45 **The Natural World: Pelican Delta.** Wildlife film, shot in the delta of the river Danube – the home of more than 45 different species of fish and hundreds of species of birds from Europe, Asia and Africa; 8.40 **News.**

8.45 **Did You See . . . ?** Margaret Walters, John Alderson and folk singer Vin Garbutt discuss The Aerodrome, Horizon: The Academy; and Auf Wiedersehen, Pet. Plus Sue Summers on the ethics of cinema vérité documentaries.

9.35 **Pranks:** Forty Minutes documentary *about the japes* (some of them saucy) which have replaced the old, respectable, singing telegram. They include the Kissogram, and stripping nuns.

10.15 **Frankenstein: The True Story.** Probably the nearest we shall *ever get to an accurate film* version of Mary Shelley's great science fiction novel. Starring James Mason, Michael Sarrazin (as The Creature), David McCallum and Leonard Whiting (as Victor Frankenstein). *Directed by* Jack Smight. Ends at 1.15am.

CHANNEL 4

1.15 **Irish Angle:** Comment from either north or south of the border.

1.45 **Film: Bhavni Bhava** (A Folk Tale) (1980). Indian film blending dance and drama, about a king with two wives *whose life is disrupted by a* conspiracy following the birth of a son to the elder queen. With Naseeruddin Shah, Smita Patil and Suhasini Mulay. With English sub-titles.

4.00 **Birds of Britain:** The feathered *magic to be found in the 20-mile ribbon of the Fens* called the Ouse.

4.30 **In Dialogue:** ***Karen Armstrong and Malcolm Muggeridge.*** The former nun (her books include Through the Narrow Gate) discusses St Paul with the venerable sage.

5.00 **News headlines.** And weather. Followed by: **Book Four:** *Hermione Lee, the* programme's presenter, looks back on the books of 1983, with Michael Foot, Marina Warner and Martyn Goff (Director of the National Book League).

5.45 **The Outsiders:** John Pilger interviews Patsy Spybey, a victim of the wasting disease Friedrich's Ataxia, now recovering at a dramatic pace.

6.15 **American Football:** Washington Redskins versus Cowboys in Dallas.

7.15 **The World at War:** Tenth film in this repeated 26-part series. Tonight, U-boats in the North Atlantic, between 1939 and 1943.

8.15 **Tell the Truth:** Identity-spotting game, played by Beverly Anderson, Sue Arnold, Bernard Falk and Peter Purves.

8.45 ***Struggle:*** *More fun from the* left-dominated London town hall. Tonight: a tricky question posed by a nuclear war.

9.20 **The Skin Horse:** Sex and the severely disabled. Actors, comedians, film clips and children's stories are pressed into service "to break the ghetto attitude of television towards this emotional subject".

10.15 **Marun Buchstansangur:** British cartoon with an unhygienic hero.

10.25 **Film: I Was a Male War Bride** (1949) Howard Hawks's sparkling comedy has Gary Grant as the French intelligence officer in postwar Germany who marries an American servicewoman (Ann Sheridan) and has problems getting into the United States with her. Ends at 12.20.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News; Morning has Broken. 6.55 Weather; Travel.
7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.15 Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye. 7.45 Bells. *7.50 The Shape of God.*
8.00 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers.
8.15 Sunday.
8.50 Week's Good Cause: Annual appeal from St Martin-in-the-Fields. 8.55 Weather.
9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter From America by Alistair Cooke.
9.30 The Hopes and Fears of all the Years. Service for the last Sunday in Advent, from West Orchard United Reformed Church, Coventry.
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11.15 Weekend.
12.00 Smash of the Day: 'Steptoe and Son' – *a special Christmas* edition (r).
12.30 The Food Programme. A dish of carp, and a report from the sherry centre of Jerez. 12.55 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 The World This Weekend: News.
2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time visits Shropshire.
2.30 Afternoon Theatre: 'Comrades' by Frederick Bradnum. Memories of his soldiering days during the Second World War *are stirred for Major Adam* Lloyd-Little (James Villiers) by the Falklands campaign. So, for the first time in years, he attends a memorial service for his fallen comrades. The outcome is totally unexpected. With Brian Carroll and Athony Hall (r).
4.00 News; Treasures and Trifles. Bernard Price's anthology of *how the famous (and infamous)* acquired their favourite possessions.
4.30 The Living World.
5.00 News, Travel.
5.05 Down Your Way visits Oxford Street. 5.50 Shipping Forecast.
6.00 News.
6.15 Feedback. Your comments *about* BBC TV and radio put to producers and management.
6.30 Surgeon Memsahib. A picture of Margaret Shepherd's *unusual* career in India, constructed with the aid of letters sent home while she was out there.
7.00 Travel; Programme News; The Magic Carpet. Seven-part dramatization by David Beatty of the story of the R101 airship (4)†.
7.30 Bookshelf.
8.00 Evening Service in preparation for Christmas, from St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.
8.45 A Sideways Look At . . . by Anthony Smith.
9.00 News; *Sybil or 'The Two Nations'* by Benjamin Disraeli (last of 6)†.9.58 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 A Small Ray of Genius. A portrait of Hannah More by Richard Mullen. Sian Phillips plays the campaigner for women's education.
11.00 The Festival of Peace. The Rt *Rev Augustine Harris, Bishop of* Middlesbrough, explores some themes of the Christmas festival.†.
11.15 Inside Parliament. Westminster committees at work.
12.00 News.
12.10 Weather.
12.15 Shipping Forecast.
England: VHF as above except: 1.55-2.00 Programme News. 4.00-6.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather. 8.00 News.
8.05 The English Baroque: Avison's Concerto in G Minor, Op 2, No 1; *Roseingrave's Suite in E flat* (Colin Tilney, harpsichord), Greene's anthem *Arise, shine, O* Zion, Arne's Sonata No 3 in G (Christopher Hogwood, harpsichord), J C Smith's Flower Of This Purple Dye, and Arne's Come Away, Death (April Cantelo, Soprano), and Boyce's Overture in F.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Your Concert Choice: Patrick Hadley's *The Hill's;* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4 (Pittsburgh SO).†
10.30 Music Weekly: Includes a conversation with Anthony Payne; old musical magazines recalled by Patricia Carroll; and Calum Macdonald on the origins of thee passacaglia in Brahm's Symphony No 4.
11.20 *Chicago Symphony Orchestra:* Solti conducts Paufnik's Sinfonia Sacre and Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4.
12.15 James Gibb: piano recital. Beethoven's Variations on Righini's Air Vieni Amore; and Schuman's Kreisleriana.
1.15 Suk and Mendelssohn: recital by the Delmé String Quartet, with Kenneth Essex (viola). Suk's Meditation on the Old Bohemian Chorale Saint Wenceslas; and Mendelssohn's Quintet in B flat major, Op 87.
2.15 1983 Bayreauth Ring: The *Hall/Solti 'English' Ring cycle* ends with Gotterdammerung. Solti conducts the Bayeuth Festival Chorus and Orchestra. The cast includes Reiner Goldberg (Siegfried), Bent Norup (Gunter), Aage Haugland (Hagen), Hermann Becht (Alberich), Jildegard Behrens (Brunnhilde) and Brigitte *Fassbender* (Waltraute). *Sung in* German. Act one.†
5.15 A Closer Look: Three poems by William Blake are re-examined by Vernon Scannell. The reader is Paul Webster.
5.35 Gotterdammerung: the Second Act.
5.45 The Reith Lectures 1983: Sir Douglas Wass, former *Permanent Secretary to the* Treasury and Joint Head of the Home Civil Service, gives the last of six talks on the theme of Government and the Governed.
6.15 Gotterdammerung: the third and final act of the Wagner opera.
7.35 Isang Yun: The Kreuzberger *String* Quartet play the Quartet No 3.†
7.50 Men's Group: Comedy, by Peter Tegel. Kate (Maggie McCarthy) is the breadwinner while her husband (William Nighy) stays at home with their young son. Bored and lonely, the husband answers an advertisement for "anti-sexist" men to join a group for "self-examination, mutual support and trust games." With Spencer Banks and Margot Boyd.†
9.00 Ravel and Varèse: David Atherton conducts the London Sinfonietta in the first of two Radio 3 concerts consisting of works by the two French composers. We hear Ravel's Fanfare, his Piano Concerto in G (soloist Paul Crossley) and *Varèse's Offrandes. With Marie* Angel (soprano) and Sebastian Bell (flute). Part one.†
9.35 China Contrasts: Professor Alec Nove, of Glasgow University, reports on what he found when he visited some Chinese factories earlier this year.
9.55 Ravel and Varèse: part two. Varèse's *Nocturnal:* Density, 21.5; and the complete version of Ravel's Mother Goose.†
10.45 Buns: James Bryce reads the short story by Manny Draycott.
11.00 *The Complete Webern* The Four Songs, Op 12, for voice and *piano; and Five Movements, Op* 5, for string quartet. With Phyllis Bryn-Julson (soprano).†
11.15 News *until* 11.18.

Radio 2

News headlines at 6.30pm, summaries on the *hour* (except 8.00pm) (MF/MW). 5.00am George Ferguson: The Sunday *Early Show.† 7.30 Paul McDowell† with* Good Morning Sunday, incl 7.45 Bishop Bill Westwood. 9.00 David Jacobs with Melodies for You.† 11.00 Desmond Carrington† Radio 2 All-Time Greats, incl 12.02 Sports Desk. 12.30 Terry Wogan with Two's *Best.*† 1.30 It Sticks Out Half a Mile. Starring John Le Mesurier, Ian Lavender and Bill Pertwee.† 2.00 Benny Green.† 3.00 *Alan Dell with Sounds Easy.*† 4.00 Sing Something Simple with the Cliff Adams Singers and the Jack Emblow Quartet.† 4.30 String Sound. BBC Radio Orchestra.† 5.00 The Fosdyke Saga starring Stephanie Turner, Philip Lowrie and David Threlfall.† 5.15 The Flying Pickets. 5.30 Sports Desk; Charlie Chester with Your Sunday Soapbox. 6.30 Sunday Serenade. *Songs and instrumental serenades. 7.00* Brain of Sport 1983. The climax of this weekly nationwide quiz. 7.30 Grand Hotel with Max Jaffa and the Palm Orchestra. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour from Dartmoor Prison, Princetown, in Devon. 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes with Alan Keith. 10.00 Pop Over Europe from London. 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.05 Pete Murray's Late Show (stereo from midnight). 2.00-5.00am Bill Rennells.

Radio 1

News on the half-hour until 11.30am, then 2.30, 3.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00 and 12.00 midnight (MF/MW). 6.00am Mark Page. 8.00 Tony Blackburn's Sunday Show. 10.00 Adrian Juste. 12.00 Jimmy Savile's 'Old Record' Club. 2.00 Steve Wright. 4.30 The Great Rock 'n' Roll Trivia with David Jensen. 5.00 Top 40 with Tommy Vance.† 7.00 Anne Nightingale.† 9.00 Andy Peebles on Sunday.† 10.00-12.00 Sounds of Jazz with Peter Claydon.†

World Service: page 28

BBC 1 WALES: 3.30-4.50pm Sports Line-Up (followed by News Headlines). 10.30-11.30 Christmas with Finland. 11.55-12.45am Omnibus. 12.45 News. SCOTLAND: 1.30-1.55pm Can Seo. 6.35-6.40 Professor Sir W Ferguson Anderson appeals on behalf of Crossroads (Scotland) Care Attendant Scheme. 10.30-11.00 Spectrum. 11.00-11.20 The Piper's Tune. (Pibroch player Hugh MacCallum). *12.20am Scottish news. NORTHERN* IRELAND: 1.00-1.28pm Farm View. 10.30-11.20 Christmas in the City. Carol and songs from the City Hall, Belfast. 12.20am Northern Ireland news.

S4C As London except: 1.50pm Fenmyr. 1.55 Eastern Eye. 2.50 Picture of Health. 3.35 How We Learned to Ski. 4.00 Seven Days. 4.30 Basketball. 5.25 Film: Young Cassidy. Early life of Sean O'Casey. 7.20 Newyddion. 7.30 Hufen A Moch Bach. 8.00 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 8.50 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol. 9.20 Interference. 9.50 World at War. 10.45 What the Censor Saw. 1.00am Closedown.

HTV WALES As London except: 2.30pm Cup Rugby. 3.15-5.00 Snooker.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

TSW As London except: Starts 9.30am-10.00 Getting On. 11.00 Herbs for All. 11.25 Look and See. 11.30-12.00 South West Week. 1.00pm Gardens for All. 1.30-2.00 Farming News. 5.30-6.30 Levkas Man. 12.30am Postcript, Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 9.25am Cartoon. 9.35-10.00 Adventures of Niko. 11.30-12.00 Herbs for All. 1.00pm University Challenge. 1.30-2.00 West Country Farming. 5.30-6.30 Falcon Crest.

GRAMPIAN As London except: *9.45am Educational* Short. 10.00-11.00 Third Testament. 11.30-12.00 Herbs for All. 1.00pm University Challenge. 1.30-2.00 Farming Outlook. 2.30 Phyllis Diller Show. 3.00 Snooker. 4.30 Scotsport. 5.30-6.30 Terrahawks. 12.30am Reflections.

CHANNEL As London except: 1.55-2.00 Good News. 5.30-6.30 Levkas Man. 12.30am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am Professor Kitzel. 9.30-10.00 Farming 83'. 11.30-12.00 Herbs for All. 1.00pm University Challenge. 1.30-2.00 Here and now. 5.30-6.30 Battlestar Galactica.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25am-10.00 *Getting On. 11.00 Herbs for All.* 11.30-12.00 Farming Diary. 1.00-2.00pm Making of Jaws 3D. 5.00-6.30 We'll Meet Again. 12.30am Five Minutes for Christmas. 12.35 Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 9.25am Miniature Chess Masterpieces. 9.30-10.00 Retirement Reports. 11.00 Herbs for All. 11.25 *Aap Kaa Hak.* 11.30-12.00 Down to Earth. 1.00pm University Challenge.. 1.30-2.00 Terrahawks. 5.30-6.30 Battlestar Galactica.

SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Popeye. 10.00-11.00 Sesame Street. 11.30-12.00 About Gaelic. 1.5pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 *Chapter and Verse.* 2.30 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 3.00 Bullseye. 3.30 Snooker. 4.30 Scotsport. 5.30-6.30 Falcon Crest. 12.30am Late Call, Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 9.25 *am Border Diary.* 9.30-10.00 It's a Vet's Life. 11.30-12.00 Herbs for All. 1.00 Join us for Bridge. 1.30-2.00 Farming Outlook. 5.30-6.30 Love Boat.

TVS As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Wattoo Wattoo. 11.30-12.00 *Survival.* 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30-2.00 Farming Diary. 5.30 News. 5.30-6.30 Battlestar Galactica. 12.30 am Company, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 9.30 am-10.00 Paint Along with Nancy. 11.30-12.00 Herbs for All. 1.00 pm At Ease. 1.25 Weather. 1.30-2.00 Farming Diary. 5.30-6.30 Here's Boomer. 12.30 am Road to Bethlehem.

ULSTER As London except: 10.00 Morning Worship. 11.30-12.00 Herbs for All. 1.00pm University Challenge. 1.30-2.00 Farming Ulster. 2.30-3.15 Two of Us. 5.30 Smurfs. 6.00-6.30 Newhart. 12.30am Sports Results. 12.35 News, Closedown.

TYNE TEES 9.25am Morning Glory. 9.30-10 Getting On. 11.00 Lookaround. 11.05 World We Live In. 11.30-12.00 Herbs For All. 1.00pm University Challenge. 1.30-2.00 Farming Outlook. 12.00 Stockton-On-Tees Vocal Union.

Legality test for EEC budget

From Ian Murray
Brussels

The 1984 EEC budget, which was passed by the European Parliament on Thursday, is to be studied by the Community foreign ministers here on Monday. They will be considering whether or not it is legal.

The budget was given its second reading by Parliament in the face of total opposition by British MEPs, who were furious because agreed rebates worth £457m to Britain were put into a special frozen category and can only be released by a further vote of Parliament.

But the Council of Ministers is not looking at the budget at Britain's behest. It has noted at least four legal points, which it believes could be challenged before the European Court, and there is a growing mood in member countries that Parliament must be made to keep to the rules. It is doubtful, however, whether the Greek presidency, after the failure of the Athens summit, has any stomach for a fight within a fortnight of handing over the chair to France.

One point does involve the British cash. Parliament has reclassified this from being compulsory spending – as laid down by the Council – to non-compulsory spending, which alone can be controlled by the Parliament. Making this change made it possible for the money to be frozen.

But senior EEC diplomats, who met late in Brussels after Parliament's vote, were worried about other points, notably the way in which Parliament had arbitrarily increased the amount of revenue for the budget beyond the limits which the Council believed are legally permissible.

If the Council wants to challenge what Parliament has done it will have to act quickly on Monday because the following day Mr Piet Dankert, the president of the Parliament, intends to adopt it. Once that legal formality is completed the Commission seems certain to implement the budget whatever the Council may say.

EEC power struggle, page 6



Lights out: A hat-trick of Santas lining up to greet non-smokers on the steam journey. [Photograph: Herbie Knott].

Steaming to Santa

The six-mile Watercress Line steam railway, which runs between Arlesford and Four Marks in Hampshire, is running a service of Santa Specials this weekend.

The £2.25 fare on the Santa steam-hauled specials includes sherry for adults and presents for children when they reach Santa's Grotto at Four Marks station.

Judge orders Whitehall 'mole' unmasked

Continued from page 1

sources and has been blown utterly apart.

"Anyone who knows Whitehall knows that documents stamped secret extend even to the office loo paper, and it now seems that if a document is Crown property, which applies to 60 or 70 per cent of leaks, then you are automatically bound to return it."

He said that the newspaper had not destroyed the document or defaced it in order to remove identifying marks because to have done so once the "legal juggernaut" had started could have lead to criminal charges.

Mr Preston said that he had no means of knowing if the identification marks on the secret document would help reveal the "mole."

"That has been one of the nightmare factors of this case. The leaker took extreme precautions to make sure we had no idea who he or she was. He or she had every opportunity in handing us the document to make certain it would be of no relevance if handed back. But we did not know that for certain."

The National Union of Journalists last night condemned the court ruling as "yet another serious attack on press freedom and the right of the public to be told what is being done in its name."

Mr Eddie Barrett, NUJ president, said that if journalists were compelled to disclose their sources they would quickly dry up and the public would be denied information.

The Director of Public Prosecutions said last night there would be no criminal proceedings in connexion with another government report leaked to *The Guardian*. A Department of Education and Science report was returned unopened by the newspaper because it was sent in a unstamped envelope.

Leading article, page 9
Law report, page 28

Letter from New York

Down and out in the soup-kitchen queue

Mr Edwin Meese, one of President Reagan's senior aides, said this week that some customers at the soup kitchens in American cities were not poor but were there "because the food is free and that's easier than paying for it". Trevor Fishlock joined the queues to find out for himself.

Outside the soup kitchen on West 28th Street men, women and children wait silently in a long line and sniff the smell of stew. Jimmy, the doorman, has control and as one person emerges from the 58-seat canteen another is allowed in. In the three-hour lunch period this place serves more than 400 meals.

No one is asked if he has any money, who he is or what he does. Those who run the Holy Apostles Church soup kitchen keep an open door. They say that the sort of people who come here have had enough of being humiliated. The guests, as they are called, get a free meal, a smile and no questions.

Most of them look in need of a square meal and some human warmth. All that is asked is that they eat up and make room for another hungry person. They attend to their trays and eat mostly in a monastatic silence.

Rosie, who is middle-aged and a regular here, has a meal of minced meat, beans, bread, salad and fruit. "It's my only meal of the day. I depend on it."

Abigail, a country-and-western singer whose luck ran out and who now lives in a hostel for the homeless, sits with her five children, aged two to nine. "We need to come here. There are no cooking facilities at the hostel and we couldn't afford to eat out."

A young man says: "I don't have a job or a home, I have to eat."

Many of the people who come here live and sleep rough, in stations and up against steam vents. Some spend hours in tube trains for warmth. Others live in depressing, run-down hotels used by the city council for homeless families. There are more than 35,000 homeless people in this city, two million homeless across the country: the broken Americans.

Some of those in the canteen and in the queue outside, are drifters and alcholollcs, haggard and grey-faced.

"But they are not all the traditional Bowery bums", say the Rev William Greenlaw, who runs the kitchen. "A surprisingly high number are in their twenties and thirties, white as well as black, who have just drifted out of the economic mainstream."

New York has 86 soup kitchens, run by churches and volunteers, twice as many as there were a year ago. There are similar canteens throughout the US.

Poverty and spectacle of hungry Americans constitute a sensitive political issue which haunts President Reagan. There are more than 34 million people, 15 per cent of the population, below the poverty line. A family of four is officially poor if it gets under $9,862 (£6,800) a year.

President Reagan is widely viewed as being unsympathetic towards the poor and hungry. Mr Meese's remarks about the people who go to soup kitches echoed a notorious remark of Mr Reagan's, that food stamp recipients bought vodka with their spare money.

The Administration is trying to repair the damage.

Its record on welfare is not good. The Administration has cut billions of dollars from food programmes, removed hundreds of thousands of people from the food stamp scheme and forced hundreds of schools to stop providing lunch. The soup kitchens have spread as the cuts have bitten.

This week it was reported that the Administration has delayed funding for a scheme to distribute surplus food to the poor.

Those helping to feed the very poor complain bitterly about the red tape that makes it difficult for them to obtain surplus food from the Government. At the Holy Apostles kitchen, Mr Greenlaw said: "There is now an adversary relationship between government welfare people and those they are meant to serve... The welfare system is a maze, immoral, horrible and shaming for all Americans."

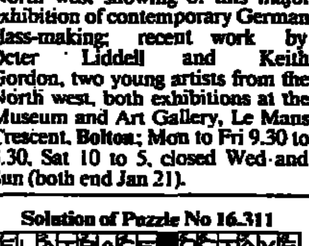
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Textile Designs and Drawings by Janet Hunter, Atkinson Gallery, Lord Street, Southport: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

The Print Collection, showing the creative use of different printmaling processes by 20th Century artists; Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall: Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).



German Glass Today – the only North west showing of this major exhibition of contemporary German glass-making: recent work by Octer Liddell and Keith Gordon, two young artists from the North west, both exhibitions at the Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun (both end Jan 21).

David Danaldson retrospective, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

New Additions to the Print Loan Scheme, and work by Simon Bull, Wakefield Art Gallery, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Jan 13).

The Scottish Crafts Collection, a touring exhibition from the Scottish Development Agency. Maclauring Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

Show business, the Theatre Museum's look at the live performing arts, a touring exhibition from the Victoria and Albert Museum, at the Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff; Mon to Fri 12 to 10, Sat 12 to 4, and 6 to 9, closed Sun (ends Jan 23).

Last chance to see

Curtains! – A new life for old theatres – Elizabethan Exhibition Gallery, Brook Street, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5 (ends today).

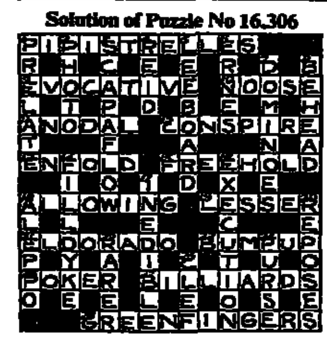
Lancaster Bombers: their development and use, St Helens Museum and Art Gallery, College Street, St Helens, Merseyside, Sat 10 to 1 (ends today).

General

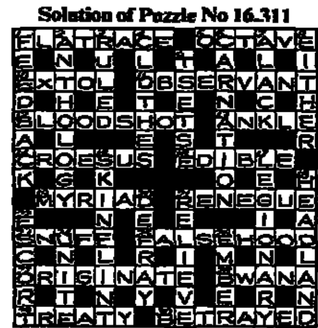
Antique collectors fair, Newton Memorial Hall, Chapeltown, Sheffield.

Antiques and flea market, Top Rank Suite, Arundel Gate, Sheffield, 9 to 5.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,306



Solution of Puzzle No 16,311



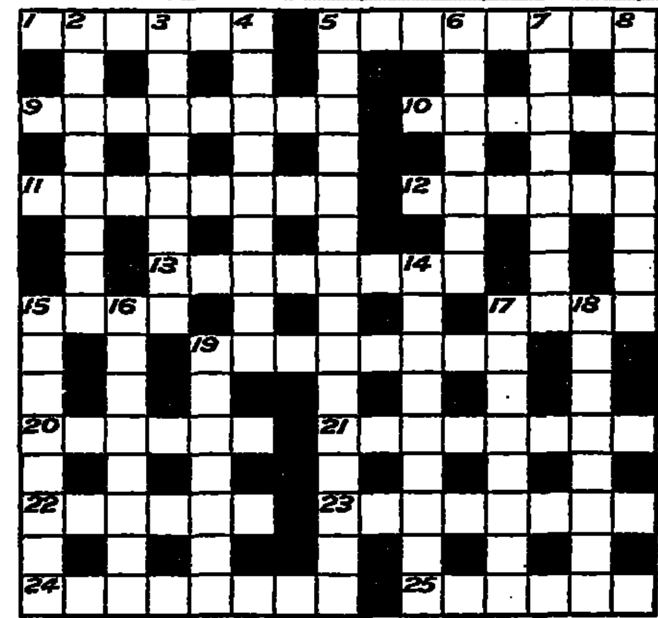
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,312

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are:
Caroline Steenman-Clark, 206 Holly Lodge Mansions, Oakeshott Avenue, London N6; Mrs. M. M. Nichols, 6 Thirlestane, Lemsford Road, St. Albans, Herts.; John G. Morgan, 100 West Road, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

Name...............................

Address...............................



ACROSS

1 Ministry houses cunning bird (6).
5 Went to work? Made things easier (8).
9 One of the informers against Hamlet (8).
10 Island is quiet, held by old Persian king (6).
11 As one must be to win the girl? (8).
12 Approval of a rosette (6).
13 Check about a break in one's journey (8).
15 Advantage? Hem! (4).
17 One master back with the flag (4).
19 Battle soldier around – just cheer up (8).
20 Lag – one in a plot about to return (6).
21 Girl with little ones – they spend nothing on clothes (8).
22 Common chords in sound attempt to get publicity (6).
23 Thoroughly infixes in small amounts (8).
24 With resolution, ties lady in knots (8).
25 Travel on the river a long way down (6).

DOWN

2 Secured conjunction about a job (8).
3 Cross a wild one in a wild set (8).
4 The girl next door, for example – Amanda (9).
5 Point of balance – in the middle of mass? (6,2,7).
6 Hawthorn – beautiful in and around Berkeley Square (7).
7 Patty to change too (8).
8 Harry's in trouble (8).
14 Garden, set out and divided (9).
15 Birds around – dead copies (8).
16 Given point, it could be a case of possession (8).
17 Hint at getting – eventually – around (8).
18 Lantern – one broken inside (8).
19 Mixed advance in source of growth (7).

In the garden

Leaves of many plants such as *Primula denticulata* and other species, also hellebores (Christmas and Lenten roses) all die down and tend to become a soggy mess. They should be removed not only in the interests of tidiness but also to remove shelter for pests and any danger the rotting material might be to growth buds just below the surface.

Protect the more tender plants such as nerines, crinums, amaryllis and schizostylis against frost with a 6in layer of straw, peat, or leaves over and around them. Tie leaves of red hot pokers together wigwam fashion.

Draw soil up to the base of the taller brassicas – kales, Brussels sprouts, sprouting broccoli or even stake the very tall plants. Remove dead and yellowing leaves. RH

Anniversaries

Births: **Domenico Cimarosa**, composer, Aversa, Italy, 1749; **Ludwig van Beethoven**, baptized Bonn, 1770; **Sir Humphry Davy**, chemist, inventor of the miner's safety lamp, Penzance 1778; **John Greenleaf Whittier**, writer and abolitionist, Haverhill, Massachussets, 1807. Deaths: **Simon Bolivar**, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; **William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin of Largs**, scientist, Netherhall, Strathclyde, 1907.

TOMORROW: Births: **Sir Joseph Thomson**, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1906, Manchester, 1856; **Francis Thomson**, poet, author of *The Hound of Heaven*, Preston, 1859; **Paul Klee**, painter of abstracts, Müdenbuchsee, Switzerland, 1879. Deaths: **Antonio Stradivari**, violin maker, Cremona (?), 1737; **Jean Baptiste de Lamarck**, biologist, Paris, 1829.

Tomorrow

Last chance to see

Fibre art by a collection of artists, and felt hangings by Freda Walker, Abbot Hall, Kendal, Cumbria; Sun 2 to 5 (ends today).

All that glisters ... – embroidered paintings by Verina Warren; lustreed earthenware bowls by Sutton Taylor and Jewelry by Wendy Ramshaw and Abigail Fleissig, the Yew Tree Gallery, Ellaston, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; Tues to Sun 10 to 6 (ends today).

Music

Organ recital by George Blackmore, City School, Stradbroke Road, Sheffield, 2.30.

Ron Goodwin Christmas Show, with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, 7.30.

Concert by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, St Davids Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

General

Antique Fair, Golden Valley Hotel, Cheltenham, 10.30 to 4.30.

The papers

The nine drunk drivers jailed by magistrates in Grays, Essex, must have had the shock of their lives. The Sun says "Such tough sentences are almost unknown. But we hope that from now on, motorists will take them as the norm. It may seem hard to shove people, who are otherwise decent citizens, behind bars. But if the risk of a few days in jail means saving lives at Christmas, then it is well worth it. We're not being killjoys. There is nothing wrong with the cup that cheers – particularly at this time of the year. But the message that the Essex magistrates are underlining so dramatically is simple: "If you do drink, don't drive."

 Printed and published by Times Newspapers Limited, P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ, England. Telephone: 01-837 1234. Telex: 264971. Saturday December 17, 1983. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Cheap flights

British Caledonian has introduced two new fares on flights from Gatwick Airport to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester, which it says saves up to 50 per cent. A special "Week ender Fare" operates outwards on Fridays or Saturdays, with a return on Sunday. This means a return fare of £47 to Manchester and £60 to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The same fares apply for senior citizens on certain flights on weekdays.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.66	1.56
Austria Sch	28.85	27.25
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.75
Canada $	1.83	1.76
Denmark Kr	14.74	14.04
Finland Mkk	8.69	8.29
France Fr	12.32	11.82
Germany DM	4.06	3.87
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	2445.00	2335.00
Japan Yen	349.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.58	4.35
Norway Kr	11.52	10.92
Portugal Esc	194.00	184.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Pta	231.00	221.00
Sweden Kr	11.99	11.39
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA $	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	216.00	206.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 341.9
London: The *FT* index closed up 6.5 at 759.3.

Roads

Wales and West: A35: Single-lane traffic on temporary traffic signals on Axminster – Honiton road between Kilmington – Loughwood, Devon. A483: Temporary traffic lights, long delays in Wind Street, Ammanford. A55: Temporary roundabout at Colwyn Bay, junction with A546.

Midlands: Contraflow on A34: Stone – Newcastle road at Stongford, Staffordshire. M5: Today only: Motorway between junction 9 (Tewksbury): single land traffic will operate on both north and southbound carriageways for part of day, both carriageways should be clear by mid–afternoon. A1: Lane closures at Colsterworth, Lincolnshire.

North: A6: Sewer cleaning work along southbound carriageway of Stockport Road, Greater Manchester between 08.00 hrs and 15.30 hrs. A637: Bailey bridge in use in Barnsley Road between Darton and Barugh, delays. A19: One way westbound and diversion at Mandale interchange, Middlesbrough (Haythorpe Drive to Levick Crescent).

Scotland: A929: King Street, Dundee, single lane. A956: Construction of roundabout on Wellington Road, Aberdeen, (South Esplanade West): care required. A945: Roadworks on Riverside Drive at Wellington Bridge, Aberdeen, care required.

Information supplied by AA

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, announced in a written Commons reply yesterday that during the Christmas and New Year holiday, from December 24 to January 2, no lane closures were planned on the M1.

Christmas music

Christmas concert by Waynflete Singers, Winchester Catherdral Choir, and London Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble, Winchester Cathedral, Winchester, 7.30.

Concert of Carols, by Lincoln Musical Society, Lincoln Minster, Lincoln, 7.

Ron Goodwin Christmas Show, with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Wessex Hall, Poole, 7.30.

Northampton Bach Choir Carol Concert, St Matthews Church, Kettering Road, Northampton, 7.30.

Bath Abbey Choir and Orchestra present Christmas Music, Bath Abbey, Bath, 7.30.

A Christmas celebration, Union Chapel, Church Road, Combe Down, Bath, 7.30.

An evening of Christmas music with the Reading Phoenix Choir, University Church of St Mary, High Street, Oxford, 8.

Christmas music for chorus, audience and organ, Manchester Cathedral, 7.30.

Christmas Concert with Carols, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Carol Concert, Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society Wells Cathedral, Wells, Avon: 7.

Music for Christmas, the Choir of Leeds Parish Church, Leeds Parish Church, 3.

Carols for All with the St Michael's Singers, Coventry Cathedral, 7.30.

Tomorrow

Carols for all, by Coventry Youth Orchestra, and Coventry Cathedral Choir, Coventry Cathedral, 7.30.

Carols for all, by City of Birmingham Choir, Town Hall, Birmingham, 2.30.

Carols by candlelight, Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, 6.30.

Festival carol service, Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 5.

Weather

Pressure will remain low over southern Britain as a depression with an associated frontal trough moves north-eastwards over England.

6am to midnight

London, East Anglia, E, W Midlands, North Wales: Cloudy, occasional rain dying out, sunny intervals developing; wind SE moderate, locally fresh, becoming variable light; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Rather cloudy at first, sunny intervals developing, but also scattered showers; wind variable light becoming S or SW moderate, locally fresh; max temp 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).

E, central N, NE England: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks of rain or drizzle; wind E moderate or fresh, locally strong at first; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, some brighter intervals but also showers; wind mainly E moderate, occasionally fresh; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Doray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, dull and misty with a little drizzle at times; wind E moderate or fresh increasing locally strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45).

SW, NW Scotland, Argyll: Mainly dry, rather cloudy, a few sunny intervals developing; wind mainly E moderate, locally fresh; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: continuing unsettled with near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind E light or moderate but locally strong in E; sea slight but rough in E. **Strait of Dover, English Channel (E):** Wind variable light; sea smooth or slight. **St George's Channel:** Wind variable light to moderate; sea slight. **Irish Sea:** Wind E moderate or fresh becoming light; sea moderate becoming slight.

	Sun rises: 8.01am	Sun sets: 3.52pm
	Moon sets: 4.41am	Moon rises: 2.16pm

TOMORROW

	Sun rises: 8.02am	Sun sets: 3.52pm
	Moon sets: 6.00pm	Moon rises: 2.43pm

Full Moon: December 20.

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.32 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.41 am
Edinburgh 4.08 pm to 8.10 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.51 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.47 am

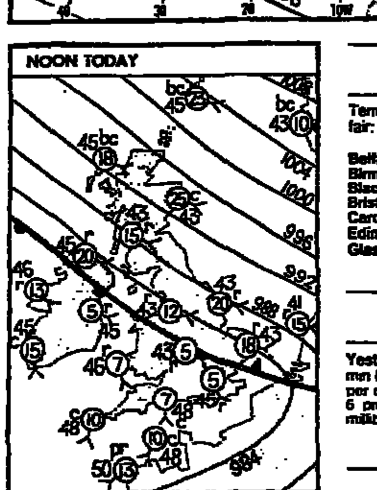
London 4.22 pm to 7.32 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.42 am
Edinburgh 4.08 pm to 8.11 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.52 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.47 am

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	-	.04	7	45	Drizzle
Bridlington	-	.04	7	45	Showers
Cromer	0.3	-	7	45	Dull
Lowestoft	-	.02	7	45	Cloudy
Clacton	0.3	-	6	43	Cloudy
Margate	-	-	7	45	Bright
Folkestone	1.0	-	7	45	Cloudy
Hastings	-	-	-	-	-
Eastbourne	-	-	8	46	Cloudy
Worthing	-	-	8	46	Cloudy
Littlehampton	-	-	9	48	Cloudy
Bognor R	-	-	9	48	Cloudy
Southsea	-	-	9	48	Cloudy
Shanklin	-	-	9	48	Cloudy
Bournemouth	-	.06	9	48	Rain pm
Poole	-	.10	9	48	Rain pm
Weymouth	-	.07	10	50	Rain pm
Exmouth	-	.04	8	46	Rain pm
Torquay	-	.04	10	50	Rain
Falmouth	-	.09	10	50	Rain am
Penzance	1.2	.06	11	52	Rain
Jersey	-	.04	8	46	Rain
Guernsey	-	.07	9	48	Rain
Newquay	0.1	.09	9	48	Rain
Ilfracombe	-	.01	10	50	Rain pm
Tenby	-	.04	9	48	Rain
Southport	-	-	6	43	Cloudy
Morecambe	-	.01	6	43	Dull
Douglas	-	-	6	43	Dull

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing side)

NOON TODAY



b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	7	45	Guernsey	c	7	[illegible]
Birmingham	c	5	41	Inverness	c	2	[illegible]
Blackpool	f	5	41	Jersey	r	6	[illegible]
Bristol	f	8	46	London	f	7	[illegible]
Cardiff	c	7	45	Manchester	c	7	[illegible]
Edinburgh	s	5	41	Newcastle	c/r	6	[illegible]
Glasgow	s	5	41	Ronaldsway	c	7	[illegible]

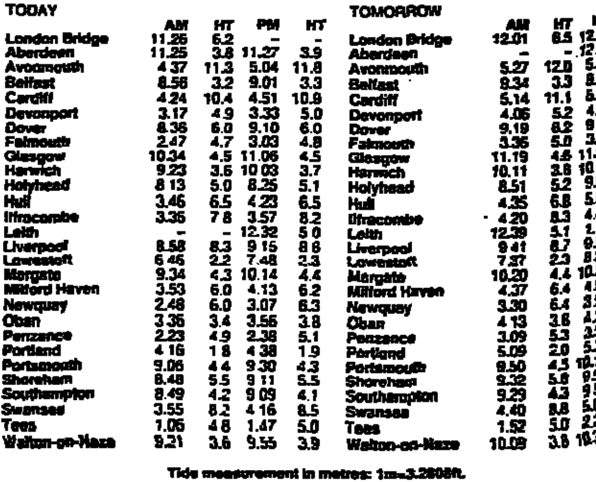
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6 pm, 7[illegible] per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm 991.[illegible] millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Aviemore, 3[illegible] (37F); highest rainfall: Isles of Scilly, 0.19[illegible]; highest sunshine: Isles of Scilly, 3.4hr.

High tides



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.26	6.2	-	-
Aberdeen	11.25	3.8	11.27	3.9
Avonmouth	4.37	11.3	5.04	11.8
Belfast	8.56	3.2	9.01	3.3
Cardiff	4.24	10.4	4.51	10.9
Devonport	3.17	4.9	3.33	5.0
Dover	8.36	6.0	9.10	6.0
Falmouth	2.47	4.7	3.03	4.8
Glasgow	10.34	4.5	11.06	4.5
Harwich	9.23	3.6	10.03	3.7
Holyhead	8.13	5.0	8.25	5.1
Hull	3.46	6.5	4.23	6.5
Ilfracombe	3.35	7.8	3.57	8.2
Leith	-	-	12.32	5.0
Liverpool	8.58	8.3	9.15	8.8
Lowestoft	6.46	2.2	7.48	2.3
Margate	9.34	4.3	10.14	4.4
Milford Haven	3.53	6.0	4.13	6.2
Newquay	2.48	6.0	3.07	6.3
Oban	3.35	3.4	3.56	3.8
Penzance	2.23	4.9	2.38	5.1
Portland	4.16	1.8	4.38	1.9
Portsmouth	9.06	4.4	9.30	4.3
Shoreham	8.48	5.5	9.11	5.5
Southampton	8.49	4.2	9.09	4.1
Swansea	3.55	8.2	4.16	8.5
Tees	1.06	4.8	1.47	5.0
Walton-on-Naze	9.21	3.6	9.55	3.9

TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.01	6.5	12.17	[illegible]
Aberdeen	-	-	12.04	[illegible]
Avonmouth	5.27	12.0	5.54	[illegible]
Belfast	9.34	3.3	9.45	[illegible]
Cardiff	5.14	11.1	5.40	[illegible]
Devonport	4.06	5.2	4.23	[illegible]
Dover	9.19	6.2	9.52	[illegible]
Falmouth	3.35	5.0	3.53	[illegible]
Glasgow	11.19	4.6	11.52	[illegible]
Harwich	10.11	3.8	10.46	[illegible]
Holyhead	8.51	5.2	9.05	[illegible]
Hull	4.35	6.8	5.06	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	4.20	8.3	4.42	[illegible]
Leith	12.39	5.1	1.17	[illegible]
Liverpool	9.41	8.7	9.59	[illegible]
Lowestoft	7.37	2.3	8.26	[illegible]
Margate	10.20	4.4	10.58	[illegible]
Milford Haven	4.37	6.4	4.58	[illegible]
Newquay	3.30	6.4	3.51	[illegible]
Oban	4.13	3.6	4.37	[illegible]
Penzance	3.09	5.3	3.24	[illegible]
Portland	5.09	2.0	5.35	[illegible]
Portsmouth	9.50	4.5	10.13	[illegible]
Shoreham	9.32	5.6	9.56	[illegible]
Southampton	9.29	4.3	9.51	[illegible]
Swansea	4.40	8.8	5.02	[illegible]
Tees	1.52	5.0	2.25	[illegible]
Walton-on-Naze	10.09	3.8	10.38	[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow, h, hail.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	18	64	Copenhgn	s	2	36	Majorca	r	13	55	Rio de Jan*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Akrotiri	s	17	63	Corfu	f	13	55	Malaga	f	14	57	Rome	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alexandria				Dallas*	s	5	41	Malta	f	16	61	Salzburg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algiers	c	14	57	Dublin	c	8	46	Melbourne	c/	18	64	Sao Paulo*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amsterdam	c	1	34	Dubrovnik	f	10	50	Mexico C*				S Francisco*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	r	12	64	Faro	f	14	57	Miami*	r	23	73	Santiago*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bahrain	s	21	70	Florence	r	7	45	Milan	sn	-2	28	Seoul	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barbados*				Frankfurt	c	-4	25	Montreal*	c	4	39	Singapore	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barcelona	c	13	55	Funchal	c	18	64	Moscow	s	-6	21	Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beirut	c	15	55	Geneva	c	1	34	Munich	s	-7	19	Strasbourg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belgrade	s	2	36	Gibraltar	f	13	55	Nairobi				Sydney	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Berlin	c	-3	57	Helsinki	c	1	34	Naples	f	14	57	Tangier	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bermuda*	s	24	75	Hongkong	f	20	68	New Delhi	s	20	68	Tel Aviv	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biarritz	c	11	52	Innsbruck	f	6	43	New York*	c	12	54	Tenerife	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boulogne	s	6	43	Istanbul	f	7	45	Nice	r	7	45	Tokyo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bordeaux	c	6	43	Jiddah	s	30	86	Oslo	dr	0	32	Toronto*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	f	4	39	Jo'burg	f	27	81	Ottawa				Tunis	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Budapest	sn	-2	28	Karachi				Paris	c	7	45	Valencia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Buen Aires*				Las Palmas	s	23	73	Peking	s	6	43	Vancouver*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cairo	f	17	63	Lisbon	h	9	40	Perth	s	34	93	Venice	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cape Tn	c/	16	61	Locarno	sn	-1	38	Prague	c	-3	27	Vienna	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
C'blanca	c	17	63	L Angeles*	s	16	61	Reykjavik	s	-6	21	Warsaw	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chicago*	c	-3	27	Luxembg	c	-3	28	Rhodes	s	16	61	Washington	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cologne	c	-2	28	Madrid	c	7	45	Riyadh	s	21	70	Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

هكذا من الأصل